

Patricia Katcham v. Caudle-Hyatt Inc., et al; 2024 LexisNexis Jury Verdicts & Settlements 218

CL2202484P-00

Oct. 9, 2024 (verdict)

Headline: Virginia Jury Awards \$3.45 Million In Millwright Mesothelioma Case

Result: \$3.45 million plaintiff verdict

Injury: Mesothelioma and death

Court: Va. Cir., Newport News

Plaintiff Profile

Patricia Katcham

Defendant Profile

John Crane Inc

Plaintiff Counsel

Robert (Bobby) Hatten, Hugh McCormick and Nathan D. Finch, Patten Wornom Hatten & Diamonstein, Newport News, Va; Nate Finch, Motley Rice, Mount Pleasant, S.C

Defendant Counsel

Christopher Massenburg, MG&M, New York

Case Summary

Claim: Failure to provide any warnings or safety instructions with its product and breached the implied warranty of safety by selling an unreasonably dangerous product without sufficient warnings

Background: Patricia Katcham filed suit in July 2022 claiming that her husband, James Katcham, died from mesothelioma after exposure to asbestos as a millwright. Katcham claimed that as a millwright, James Katcham worked with gaskets, packing and other products that contained asbestos at the DuPont Spruance plant in the 1960s and 1970s. In a declaration given before his death, James Katcham testified that he routinely used John Crane Inc. gaskets and packing on pumps and valves at DuPont and that he would use hammers, hand scrapers and power wire brushes in installing and removing the products.

The case was filed and went to trial in the Newport News, Va. Circuit Court. John Crane Inc., which allegedly manufactured asbestos-containing gaskets and packing, was the sole remaining defendant at trial. Katcham claimed that John Crane failed to provide any warnings or safety instructions with its product and breached the implied warranty of safety by selling an unreasonably dangerous product without sufficient warnings.

Other: Trial began Sept. 24, 2024.

At trial, Katcham called William Longo, Ph.D., an electron microscopist at Materials Analytical Services in Suwanee, Ga., and John Maddox, M.D., a pathologist at Peninsula Pathology Associates in Newport News. John Crane called Allan Feingold, M.D., a pulmonologist from Miami, and John Henshaw, CIH, former Occupational Safety and Health Administration director and certified industrial hygienist from Henshaw & Associates Inc. in Fort Myers, Fla.

On Oct. 9, 2024, the jury handed down the verdict.

The jury found in favor of Katcham and awarded her \$3.45 million.

Plaintiff Expert(s)

William Longo, Ph.D., electron microscopist, Materials Analytical Services, Suwanee, Ga. John Maddox, M.D., pathologist, Peninsula Pathology Associates, Newport News, Va.

Defendant Expert(s)

Allan Feingold, M.D., pulmonologist, Miami John Henshaw, CIH, former Occupational Safety and Health Administration director and certified industrial hygienist, Henshaw & Associates Inc., Fort Myers, Fla.

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