

*George Stephenson v. PK&P Investment Co. f/k/a PK&P Investment Co. f/k/a Mole-Richardson Co., Ltd.; PK&P Investment Co. f/k/a Mole-Richardson Rentals; 2026 Jury Verdicts LEXIS 1545*

25STCV11597

February 27, 2026

**Headline:** California State Court Awards \$ 33.38 Million To Elderly Mesothelioma Patient In Product Liability Suit Alleging Asbestos-Containing Lighting Equipment Against Hollywood Equipment Manufacturer

**Party Names**

Plaintiff(s):

Stephenson, George

Defendant(s):

PK&P Investment Co. f/k/a PK&P Investment Co. f/k/a Mole-Richardson Co., Ltd.

**Topic:** PRODUCT LIABILITY - Asbestos-containing products

**Practice Area:** Civil Procedure; Environmental Law; Military and Veterans Law; Torts

**Method of Resolution:** Trial

**All Dates:** 02/27/2026 Verdict

**State:** California

**County:** Los Angeles

**Court:** California Superior Court, Los Angeles County

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Plaintiff Name: George Stephenson

Jamie Mattera

Firm Name: Weitz & Luxenberg, P.C.

Address: New York New York

Sara Merrill

Firm Name: Weitz & Luxenberg, P.C.

Address: New York New York

Tyler Stock

Firm Name: Weitz & Luxenberg, P.C.

Address: Los Angeles California

**Defendant Counsel**

Defendant Name: PK&P Investment Co. f/k/a PK&P Investment Co. f/k/a Mole-Richardson Co., Ltd.

John Katerndahl

Firm Name: Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani

Address: Newport Beach California

Brandon Sanchez

Firm Name: Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani

Address: Newport Beach California

**Judge:** Stephen Czuleger

### **Case Summary**

George Stephenson brought a personal-injury action against PK&P Investment Co., formerly known as Mole-Richardson Co., Ltd. and Mole-Richardson Rentals, alleging that his development of mesothelioma was caused by exposure to asbestos-containing products manufactured and supplied by Mole-Richardson. Stephenson, an 80-year-old former United States Army veteran and longtime Hollywood cameraman, claimed that during his decades-long career in film production, he regularly worked around Mole-Richardson's theatrical and studio lighting equipment, which allegedly incorporated asbestos-insulated motion-picture cables and other asbestos-containing components.

Stephenson filed his complaint in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. The case proceeded to trial before the Honorable Judge Stephen Czuleger. By the time of trial, Mole-Richardson was the sole defendant. Over nine court days, the parties presented evidence on liability, causation, and damages. Stephenson's counsel from Weitz & Luxenberg, P.C.-Jamie Mattera, Sara Merrill, and Tyler Stock-introduced expert testimony and conducted examinations of both fact and expert witnesses. Mole-Richardson, represented by John Katerndahl and Brandon Sanchez of Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, denied liability, challenged causation, and presented its own expert witnesses, including corporate and medical specialists.

On Feb. 27, 2026, after approximately two and a half hours of deliberation, the jury returned a unanimous verdict in favor of Stephenson on all causes of action, including a finding of malice. The jury determined that Mole-Richardson was 100% liable for Stephenson's injuries and awarded \$ 33,384,400 in non-economic damages. Stephenson had waived economic damages. The matter resolved before the second phase of punitive-damages proceedings was completed, thereby concluding the case.

**Award:** \$33,384,400