# *Donald Lassiter v. Akebono Brake Corp., et al; LexisNexis Jury Verdicts & Settlements 2*

20A79081

**Headline:** Georgia Jury Awards $5 Million In Motorcycle ***Asbestos*** Friction-Parts Case

**Result:** $5 million plaintiff verdict

**Injury:** Malignant mesothelioma

**Court:** Ga. State, Div. 1, DeKalb Co.

**Judge:** Alvin T. Wong

**Plaintiff Profile**

Donald Lassiter

**Defendant Profile**

Yamaha Motor Corp. U.S.A., Yamaha Motor Co. Ltd. and American Honda Motor Co. Inc

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Melissa Crowe Schopfer, Simmons Hanly Conroy LLP, Alton, Ill; Daniel Blouin and Gary DiMuzio, Simmons Hanly Conroy LLP, New York

**Defendant Counsel**

For Yamaha - Matthew D. Friedlander, Webb Daniel Friedlander LLP, Atlanta; For Honda - Charles K. Reed, Audrey K. Berland and Sara E. Galloway, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, Atlanta

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Product liability

**Background:** Donald Lassiter filed suit in the Division 1 of the Georgia State Court in DeKalb County in February 2020 alleging that he developed malignant mesothelioma after exposure to ***asbestos***. He brought a claim of product liability.

Lassiter was a motocross racer as a teenager and maintained and repaired motorcycles. The work included the changing of brakes from 1973 through 1984. At least some of Lassiter's exposure was from chrysotile ***asbestos*** in the brakes.

The case went to a jury trial against Yamaha Motor Corp. U.S.A. and Yamaha Motor Co. Ltd. (collectively, Yamaha) and American Honda Motor Co. Inc. Lassiter's counsel purchased the same model brakes from Honda and Yamaha that Lassiter used. The brakes were tested, and the results were introduced as evidence at trial, according to his counsel.

**Other:** On Oct. 5, 2026, the jury found for Lassiter.

The jury unanimously found for Lassiter on his product liability claim. It awarded him $5 million and found Honda and Yamaha liable.

Judge Alvin T. Wong presided.

**Key Related Documents**

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