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N.Y. Jury Awards \$1.4 Million in Case Involving John Crane's Asbestos-Containing Gaskets, Packing

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- An upstate New York jury has awarded \$1.42 million at the conclusion of a trial involving John Crane Inc., accepting the plaintiffs' claims that the decedent was exposed to asbestos fibers in the defendant's gasket and packing materials.

The New York Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District, Erie County, reached the verdict on July 23 after nine days of trial and seven hours of deliberations.

The plaintiffs asserted the claims on behalf of Bill Voelker, contending that his work with asbestos-containing gaskets and packing materials caused him to develop mesothelioma. The plaintiffs named John Crane Inc. as a defendant for its role in manufacturing the gaskets and packing, sources told HarrisMartin.

Voelker encountered the materials while serving in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1971. During trial, the plaintiffs presented evidence that John Crane knew of the dangers related to asbestos as early as the 1940s, but failed to pass along warnings to those using its products.

Voelker died four months after he was diagnosed with mesothelioma, the plaintiffs said.

The plaintiffs were represented by Jay Stuemke of Simon Greenstone Panatier Bartlett, P.C., in Dallas and John Comerford of Lipsitz & Ponterio in Buffalo, N.Y.

More on this verdict will be posted as it becomes available at www.harrismartin.com.

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