

# The Indiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Indiana Jury Verdicts

April, 2008

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

9 IJVR 4

*Unbiased and Independently Researched Jury Verdict Results*

## In This Issue

### Marion County

Auto Negligence - \$57,700	p. 2
Auto Negligence - \$19,029	p. 8
Truck Negligence - Defense verdict	p. 14

### Lake County

Auto Negligence - \$14,000	p. 5
Medical Negligence - \$112,500	p. 7
Premises Liability - \$60,000	p. 8
Auto Negligence - \$8,900	p. 10
Premises Liability - \$10,000	p. 12
Auto Negligence - Defense verdict	p. 13

### Elkhart County

Workplace Negligence - \$30,000,000	p. 1
-------------------------------------	------

### Vigo County

Medical Negligence - \$500,000	p. 4
--------------------------------	------

### Ripley County

Truck Negligence - \$475,000	p. 5
------------------------------	------

### Federal Court - Indianapolis

Disability Discrim - Defense verdict	p. 6
Civil Rights - Defense verdict	p. 10

### Wabash County

Auto Negligence - \$77,833	p. 7
----------------------------	------

### Fayette County

Auto Negligence - Defense verdict	p. 9
-----------------------------------	------

### Floyd County

Chiropractor Negligence - \$47,416	p. 9
------------------------------------	------

### Monroe County

Hospital Negligence - \$5,000	p. 11
-------------------------------	-------

### Dearborn County

Auto Negligence - \$761	p. 11
-------------------------	-------

### Porter County

Auto Negligence - Zero	p. 12
------------------------	-------

### Madison County

Insurance Contract - Defense verdict	p. 13
--------------------------------------	-------

### Allen County

Uninsured Motorist - \$9,539	p. 13
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## Civil Jury Verdicts

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**Workplace Negligence - An eighteen year-old workmen at an RV manufacturing facility was left a permanent paraplegic when a powered scaffold fell on his head; plaintiff blamed the tragedy on the facility's previous tenant that had built the scaffolds and left them in place**

*Reynolds v. Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc.*, 20D04-0011-CP-171

Plaintiff: Patrick F. O'Leary, Goshen

Defense: John Sandberg, *Sandberg*

*Phoenix & von Gontard*, St. Louis;

Tracy D. Knox and D. Michael

Anderson, *Barnes & Thornburg, LLP.*, South Bend

Verdict: \$30,000,000 for plaintiff less 80% comparative fault

County: **Elkhart**, Superior

Court: J. Stickel, 7-19-07

The Chapman Realty Company was the owner of a piece of commercial real estate located at 16651 Maple City Drive in Goshen. Chapman leased the property to a company called Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc., which used the location as a site for manufacturing recreational vehicles.

As part of its operation, Dutchmen constructed on the site a set of automated scaffolds that incorporated a powered lifting mechanism. The scaffolds were designed to enable workmen to reach high and otherwise inaccessible areas of the recreational vehicles that were being built.

On 2-28-99, Dutchmen's lease was up, and the company was ready to