

Kentucky Trial Court Review

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Kentucky Jury Verdicts

July 2014

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18 K.T.C.R. 7

Comprehensive Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

Civil Jury Verdicts

Complete and timely coverage of civil jury verdicts including circuit, division, presiding judge, parties, case number, attorneys and results.

Medical Negligence - An orthopedist was blamed for mismanaging a knee infection following a knee replacement – the infection ultimately resulted in renal failure, the plaintiff becoming dialysis dependent – while the plaintiff prevailed at trial (5 ½ years after the medical error) and took damages of \$6,000,000, she died just eleven days later

Pugh v. Love, 09-991

Plaintiff: Mitchell D. Kinner, Kinner & Patton, Paintsville

Defense: Clayton L. Robinson and Devin M. Hendricks, Robinson & Havens, Lexington

Verdict: \$6,000,000 for plaintiff

Court: **Greenup**, Special Judge Rebecca Phillips, 6-10-14

Barbara Pugh, then age 69 and the long-time owner of Castle Jewelry in Paintsville, underwent a right knee replacement surgery on 1-13-09 at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital. It was performed by an orthopedist, Dr. Robert Love. The surgery itself was not remarkable.

Pugh showed signs of an infection in her knee over the next month. As the infection worsened at the site of the replacement, Love made a decision to irrigate and debride the infection. He did so in an arthroscopic surgery on 2-19-09.

Love's efforts to did not improve the situation. The infection persisted and Pugh developed Stevens-

Johnson Syndrome. That syndrome was linked to the development of renal failure and septic shock. Pugh was hospitalized for an extended period of time.

The knee replacement was ultimately removed and Pugh's knee was fused together. More significantly the renal failure was permanent. Pugh became dialysis-dependent, undergoing the treatment

three times a day.

In this lawsuit Pugh alleged error by Love in mismanaging the infection. She focused that it was error for him to attempt to irrigate and debride the knee. Her proof indicated that at that time, Love should have removed the knee replacement hardware.

Pugh's experts were Dr. Paul Cangemi, Orthopedics, Oxford, OH

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