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## Jurors Award Nearly \$500,000 in Asbestos-Containing Hot Tops Case Against Ferro Engineering

PHILADELPHIA -- A Philadelphia jury has awarded nearly \$500,000 at the conclusion of a trial in which the plaintiff contended that exposure to asbestos in hot tops caused the decedent to develop mesothelioma.

The Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas for Philadelphia County jury reached the verdict on May 20 following a trial presided over by Judge Ramy I. Djerassi.

The plaintiffs asserted the claims on behalf of Ed Ford, who handled, installed and removed asbestos-containing hot top materials while working at the Armco Steel Corp. plant for more than 30 years. The plaintiffs named Ferro Engineering Co. as a defendant for its role in manufacturing and selling the hot tops with which Ford worked.

As a result of the asbestos exposure, Ford developed mesothelioma, the plaintiffs said.

The jury awarded a total of \$478,450.30 to the plaintiffs, allocating \$10,000 to Nancy Ford for her loss of consortium claim and the remainder to the estate of Edward Ford.

Ferro Engineering was the lone remaining defendant at the time of the verdict. The jury assessed the defendant with 24 percent liability, sources said.

Testifying on behalf of the plaintiffs were Dr. Arnold Brody, cell biology; Steven Paskal, CIH, industrial hygiene; and Dr. Edwin C. Holstein, occupational medicine.

Testifying on behalf of the defendant was Jennifer Sahmel, CIH, industrial hygiene.

The plaintiffs were represented by Jay Stuemke and Kathryn Pryor of Simon Greenstone Panatier Bartlett P.C., in Dallas.

Ferro Engineering was represented by John Kent and Theresa Mullaney of Kent McBride in Philadelphia.

Ford, et al. v. Ferro Engineering, No. 100502965 (Pa. Ct. Comm. Pls., Philadelphia Cty.).

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