

VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY

SPECIAL FEATURES

#1 - Jones v. John Crane Inc.

\$10.4 Million

Type of Case: Wrongful death, mesothelioma

Court: Newport News Circuit Court

Attorney: Robert R. Hatten

Summary: Garland Jones developed mesothelioma in July 2004 and died from the disease in July 2005 at age 60. His attorneys contended that he contracted the disease while installing asbestos gaskets and packing in the engine room of ships at Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co. from 1963-67.

The case was tried under maritime law, and the jury apportioned its verdict among three defendants: 34 percent for John Crane Inc. and 33 percent each for Johns Manville and Garlock Sealing Technologies.

Jones's estate had settled the case against Garlock before trial for six figures and had accepted a settlement of \$17,500 from the Johns Manville Settlement Trust, which is insolvent and paying only 5 percent of the amount claimants are due under a matrix developed for settlements.

John Crane remains potentially liable for \$3.5 million. Its petition for appeal is scheduled to be argued before the Supreme Court of Virginia next month.

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