

VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY

SPECIAL FEATURES

#4 - \$4.39 million

Koonce v. John Crane Inc.

Type of Case: Asbestos, mesothelioma

Court: Newport News Circuit Court

Attorneys: Robert R. Hatten, J. Conrad Metcalf, Hugh B. McCormick III, William W.C. Harty, Erin E. Heironimus, Newport News

Summary: Plaintiff was diagnosed with mesothelioma, which can only be caused by exposure to asbestos, in April 2006. He had worked as an apprentice boilermaker from 1968 to 1971 at Norfolk Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co. when World War II-era ships were being refurbished for use in the Vietnam War. Witnesses identified John Crane Inc. as the primary manufacturer of asbestos gaskets and other materials containing asbestos that were used in the project.

John Crane contended it knew nothing about asbestos-related diseases before 1970, but plaintiff's attorneys introduced studies that connected asbestos to mesothelioma years before his exposure to asbestos.

Plaintiff had a lung removed as a result of the disease, and his treating physicians testified that his prognosis is terminal. John Crane has filed a notice of appeal.

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