

VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY

SPECIAL FEATURES

#5 - \$9.25 million

Oney, Executor v. John Crane Inc.



Type of Case: Wrongful death, mesothelioma

Court: Newport News Circuit Court

Attorney: Robert R. Hatten, Newport News

Summary: A former Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock machinist died in 2006 from mesothelioma. He was exposed to asbestos, the only cause for the disease, while installing asbestos packing and gaskets in the engine rooms of ships in the 1960s.

The case was tried under maritime law with other asbestos manufacturers as defendants, and the jury concluded that John Crane Inc. was 60 percent responsible and Garlock Sealing Technology was 40 percent responsible. Hatten had settled earlier with Garlock, leaving a judgment against John Crane of about \$5.55 million.

The Supreme Court of Virginia refused John Crane's petition for appeal last month. Last year, the court affirmed a judgment for another of Hatten's clients against John Crane in a similar case, *Jones v. John Crane Inc.* (VLW 007-6-113).

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