

TOP VERDICTS

Hugo Parker Recognized In Daily Journal's Top Verdicts

Verdict: Defense
Alameda Superior
Topic: Personal Injury
Detail: Asbestos Exposure
Defense - Hugo Parker, LLP
Edward R. Hugo,
Bina Ghanaat,
Alex G. Taheri



Bina Ghanaat is a Partner at Hugo Parker, LLP

Gene Hanks worked as a pipefitter and welder in refinery and powerhouse settings from the 1960s through 1995. During his work, Hanks worked with and around products that contained asbestos, including insulation. During that same period, beginning in the late 1950s, Hanks also performed maintenance on his own and family vehicles. Hanks purchased the parts for this work from a Checker Auto Store in Thornton, Colorado.

SAN FRANCISCO

Daily Journal

Friday,
July 5th, 2024

—Since 1893—

TOP VERDICTS

RESULT DATE: May 21, 2024

Virginia Hankes, et al. v. Ameron International Corporation, et al. (RG18899286)

Alameda County Superior Court

24-JV_143321

TOPIC: Personal Injury

SUB TOPIC: Wrongful Death

FURTHER DESCRIPTION: Asbestos Exposure

Verdict: Defense

JUDGE:

Patrick R. McKinney

EXPERTS:

Plaintiff:

David T. Fractor Ph.D. (Economist)

Alvin Markowitz (State-of-the-Art)

Steven Paskal (Industrial Hygiene)

James G. Dahlgren M.D. (Internal Medicine/Toxicology)

Defendant:

Richard Attanoos M.D. (Pathology)

Dominik Alexander Ph.D. (Epidemiology)

ATTORNEYS:

Plaintiff:

Brian M. Bush (Brian M. Bush, Attorney at Law PC)

Alexander Gamez (Boucher LLP)

Defendant:

Edward R. Hugo (Hugo Parker LLP)

Bina Ghanaat (Hugo Parker LLP)

Alex G. Taheri (Hugo Parker LLP)

FACTS: Gene Hankes worked as a pipefitter and welder in refinery and powerhouse settings from the 1960s through 1995. During his work, Hankes worked with and around products that contained asbestos, including insulation. Hankes also smoked Kent cigarettes during the 1950s, which at the time had filters containing asbestos fiber. During that same period, beginning in the late 1950s, Hankes also performed maintenance on his own and family vehicles, including performing brake, clutch, and gasket replacements. Hankes purchased the parts for this work from a Checker Auto store in Thornton, Colorado. At the time of his death, Hankes was 75 years old, and he suffered from mesothelioma. After Hankes's death, his wife, Virginia Hankes, and his other survivors filed suit against O'Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC, which was the successor in interest to Checker Auto.

PLAINTIFFS' CONTENTIONS: The plaintiffs contended that Hankes's mesothelioma was caused by, or his risk for the disease was increased by, his exposure to Bendix brakes and Bork Warner clutches that contained asbestos, which he purchased from Checker Auto. According to the plaintiffs, O'Reilly Auto was liable for Hankes's economic damages caused by his premature death as the successor in interest to Checker Auto.

DEFENDANT'S CONTENTIONS: O'Reilly Auto denied any wrongdoing or liability and all the plaintiffs' material allegations. O'Reilly specifically contended that it did not cause Hankes's mesothelioma or increase his risk.

LENGTH: Five weeks.

DELIBERATION: Deliberation lasted for two days.

DAMAGES: During closing arguments, Hankes's counsel requested the jury award over \$63,000,000 in damages.

RESULT: The jury returned a verdict in favor of the defense.

FILING DATE: Apr. 2, 2018