

## [2021 Dolan Media Jury Verdicts LEXIS 208](#)

2020-06964

**Title:** Louisiana jury sides with former mechanic with mesothelioma

**Published:** August 12, 2021

**Practice Area:** Civil Procedure; Environmental Law; Real Property Law; Torts

**State:** Missouri

**Court:** Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana      Case Number/Date: June 30, 2021

**Judge:** Ethel Simms Julien

### **Plaintiff Counsel**

Daniel P. Blouin, Donald P. Blydenburgh, Todd Neilson, Paul Dix, Shane F. Hampton and Casey Cira, Simmons Hanly Conroy, New York and Alton, Illinois

Lindsey A. Cheek and Jeanne L. Arceneaux, Cheek Law Firm, New Orleans, Louisiana

### **Case Summary**

Attorneys with Alton-based Simmons Hanly Conroy won an \$ 8.26 million verdict on behalf of a Louisiana resident who alleged he was exposed to **asbestos** while working for Ford Motor Company.

Steven "Joe" Aaron Sr., who worked as a gas station and school bus mechanic in the 1960s and '70s, was diagnosed more than a year ago with mesothelioma. Aaron alleged that he was exposed to toxic **asbestos** dust while servicing **asbestos**-containing brakes and clutches on vehicles manufactured by Ford.

The jury found that Ford failed to warn in negligence and strict liability to Aaron about the dangers of **asbestos** and awarded \$ 8,261,874.96 in compensatory damages.

Mesothelioma can occur when **asbestos** fibers become lodged in the lining of the lungs. The cancer has a long latency period and is inevitably fatal.

"While no amount of money will make up for the loss of Joe's health and independence, the jury sent a strong message with its verdict," Donald Blydenburgh, who served as co-lead attorney along with Daniel Blouin, said in a statement. "This result is fair compensation for the loss he and his family have suffered."

The trial lasted three weeks, and the jury deliberated for an hour.

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\$ 8.26 million verdict (Out of state)

Mesothelioma

Breakdown: \$ 6,000,000 in general damages, \$ 2,261,874.96 for medical expenses and loss of earning capacity

Caption: Steven Aaron Sr. v. Ford Motor Co.,

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Deborah DeRoche Kuchler, Alease Scott, Janika D. Polk, Lee Blanton Ziffer, Monique M. Weiner and Skylar B. Rudin, Kuchler Polk Weiner, New Orleans

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