

Kotzerke v. Asbestos Corp. Ltd; 2025 JURY VERDICTS LEXIS 52645

23-2-05287

April 8, 2025

Headline: **Asbestos**-related lung cancer death

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Practice Area: Civil Procedure; Environmental Law; Family Law

Case Resolution: plaintiff verdict

State: Washington

Court: Washington Superior Court, Pierce County

Plaintiff Counsel

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Case Summary

For several decades, Steven Kotzerke's father worked at a Washington state paper facility, where he was exposed to boilers, pipes, and pulp digesting machines covered in **asbestos**-containing insulation. These were regularly dismantled for repair and maintenance. Kotzerke also worked at the facility for two summers.

Kotzerke, whose father died of mesothelioma, developed lung cancer and died of his disease at age 67. He is survived by his wife and two adult children.

Kotzerke's wife sued Canada-based **asbestos** mining company **Asbestos** Corp. Ltd., which sold **asbestos** fibers to insulation manufacturers. The plaintiff alleged strict liability and negligent failure to warn. The defendant refused to participate in discovery, and a trial court entered a default judgment against it.

The court awarded \$ 16 million, including \$ 7.5 million to Kotzerke's wife for loss of consortium.

Award: \$ 16,000,000

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