

Richard D. Long v. 3M Company et al; 2025 LexisNexis Jury Verdicts & Settlements 257

23CV27457

Sept. 5, 2025

Headline: Oregon Jury Awards \$33 Million In Shipyard Laborer's **Asbestos** Gaskets Case

Result: \$33 million plaintiff verdict

Injury: Biphasic pleural mesothelioma

Court: Ore. Cir., Multnomah Co.

Plaintiff Profile

Richard Long

Defendant Profile

John Crane Inc

Plaintiff Counsel

Mark Linder and Lenny Sandoval, Dean Omar Branham Shirley LLP, Dallas; Devin Robinson, Devin Robinson PC, Vancouver, Wash

Defendant Counsel

Daira S. Waldenberg, Hawkins Parnell & Young LLP, Seattle; Daniel Griffin, Griffin Purnell LLC, Greenfield, Wis; Kate Skagerberg, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, Nashville, Tenn; Nora Gierke, Gierke Law LLC, Wauwatosa, Wis

Case Summary

Claim: Negligence

Background: Richard Long filed suit in the Multnomah County, Ore., Circuit Court claiming that he was exposed to **asbestos** while employed as a shipyard laborer. Long claimed to have started working at the shipyard immediately after leaving high school. He worked at the Dillingham ship repair yard on Swan Island, Ore., from 1972 to 1985.

Long was diagnosed with biphasic pleural mesothelioma in 2023.

The case proceeded to trial against John Crane Inc. for its **asbestos**-containing gaskets and packing.

A mistrial was granted in early 2025 after four days of jury deliberations.

During the subsequent retrial, Long called as experts Arnold Brody, Ph.D., a pathologist and cell biologist and professor emeritus at Tulane University School of Medicine Department of Pathology, New Orleans; Allan Smith, an epidemiologist from Berkeley, Calif.; Steven Haber, a pulmonologist from Houston; Steven Compton, a materials scientist from MVA Consultants in Atlanta; Jerome Spear, a certified industrial hygienist at Spear & Lancaster LLC in Magnolia, Texas; and Barry Castleman, Sc.D., an expert in state of the art from Baltimore.

Other: The jury returned its verdict on Sept. 5, 2025.

The jury found that Long was exposed to **asbestos** from a John Crane product and that the product was in a defective condition.

The jury found that the defect was a substantial factor in Long's mesothelioma.

The jury then found that John Crane was negligent and that its negligence was a substantial factor in causing Long's mesothelioma.

The jury awarded Long \$33 million in noneconomic damages.

The jury found that Long was not at fault for his exposure but attributed responsibility to 15 nonparty entities. Of those, the jury found that the conduct of Redco Corp., A.W. Chesterton Co. and C.H. Murphy/Clark-Ullman Inc. was also a substantial factor in causing Long's mesothelioma.

John Crane was attributed 30% of the liability. The jury attributed 20% of the liability each to Redco and A.W. Chesterton and 30% to C.H. Murphy.

The jury found that there was insufficient evidence supporting punitive damages.

Plaintiff Expert(s)

Arnold Brody, Ph.D., pathologist and cell biologist and professor emeritus, Tulane University School of Medicine Department of Pathology, New Orleans Allan Smith, epidemiologist, Berkeley, Calif. Steven Haber, pulmonologist, Houston Steven Compton, materials scientist, MVA Consultants, Atlanta Jerome Spear, certified industrial hygienist, Spear & Lancaster LLC, Magnolia, Texas Barry Castleman, Sc.D., expert in state of the art, Baltimore

Key Related Documents

Verdict sheet.

Document #01-250924-007V.

Jury instructions.

Document #01-250924-008J.