

VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

Miami Jury Awards \$17 Million in Asbestos Case

by Julie Kay

The father-and-son legal team of James Ferraro Sr. and James Ferraro Jr. obtained a \$17.2 million verdict Wednesday against Georgia-Pacific LLC on behalf of a former Miami commercial painter exposed to asbestos and dying of mesothelioma.

The verdict will be reduced by 45 percent with 30 percent of liability attributed to the plaintiff's employer and 15 percent attributed to him. Union Carbide Corp., which was also sued as the supplier of the asbestos, was cleared by the jury.

The Ferraros represented Roy and Suzanne Taylor against the company in a nine-day trial before Miami-Dade Circuit Judge William Thomas. The jury awarded \$13.2 million to Roy Taylor for medical bills, pain and suffering and \$4 million to his wife for loss of comfort and services.

Roy Taylor was a painting supervisor for Georgia-Pacific assigned to one-year jobs around the world and constantly exposed to asbestos, the Ferraros alleged. The 74-year-old has been diagnosed as terminal, James Ferraro Sr. said.



James Ferraro Jr. and James Ferraro Sr.

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“We’re very happy because this verdict was in the range we asked for: \$15 million to \$26 million,” said James Ferraro Sr. “That’s what we asked for in closing arguments. Our clients are very happy.”

The plaintiffs previously settled cases with co-defendants Imperial Industries Inc. of Pompano Beach and a subsidiary, Premix-Marbletite Manufacturing Co., which sold spray

products.

The Ferraro Law Firm has received nearly 20 awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$37 million in asbestos cases.

Georgia-Pacific was represented by Stuart Weinstein of Shapiro, Blasi, Wasserman & Hermann of Boca Raton. He did not return calls for comment by deadline.