

2003 MILLION-DOLLAR VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

Section B

January 19, 2004

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Michigan Lawyers Weekly

The Top 10 Verdicts

- #1** \$30 million
Wrench LLC, et al. v. Taco Bell Corp.
U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan
#1:98-CV-45
Breach Of Contract
- #2** \$27.5 million
Venture Industries, Inc. v. Autoliv ASP, Inc. et al.
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
#99-75354
Breach Of Contract
- #3** \$10.7 million.
Abdul-Baki v. Sorenson
Ingham County Circuit Court
#00-91314-NH
Medical Malpractice/Wrongful Death
- #4** \$6.2 million
Ross, et al. v. General Motors
Oakland County Circuit Court
#02-039364-NZ
Age Discrimination/Employment
- #5** \$4.9 million
Manetta v. Johnson, et al.
Macomb County Circuit Court

- #6** \$4 million
Steel Associates, Inc. v. City of Detroit
Wayne County Circuit Court
#02-223249-CC
Inverse Condemnation

- #7** \$3.8 million
Switzer, et al. v. DVI Financial Services, Inc.
Wayne County Circuit Court Case
#01-100181-CK
Fraud
- #8** \$3.48 million
Desjardins v. Oberdoerster, et al.
Washtenaw County Circuit Court
#01-654-NH
Medical Malpractice
- #9** \$2 million
Tonowski v. St. Joseph Hospital
Macomb County Circuit Court
#01-1350-NH
Medical Malpractice
- #10** \$1.777 million
Michigan Dep't of Transportation v. Esey
Oakland County Circuit Court
#00-021771-CC; #00-021772-CC
Condemnation

6 – Steel Associates, Inc. v. City of Detroit

The sixth largest verdict came in after Detroit tried to foil the business plans of people who lease land that might one day house airport expansion.

Steel Associates, a steel splitting company, is a sub-tenant on land the city will need to acquire at some point to comply with FAA safety regulations. The city's interference with Steel Associates' expansion plans cost it \$4 million.

Dearborn attorney Mark S. Demorest, who represented Steel Associates, said the company wanted to put up a new building or, at the very least, add on to its existing structure. The way steel is made these days the company needs to have larger equipment to be able to handle the larger rolls, he said.

"Essentially they were being driven out of business," he explained. "It's sort of like you're selling eight-track tapes where everyone else has CDs."

Demorest noted this wasn't the first case he's won against the city — he culled \$6.8 million for another tenant last year.