

THE CONNECTICUT LAW TRIBUNE

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VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

\$2.75M Awarded In Defective Car Lift Case

Mark Raynock v. Forward Manufacturing Company Inc.: Two Shipman & Goodwin attorneys who usually defend defective products cases took a plaintiff's case for longtime business clients. **Robert R. Simpson**, a partner in the Hartford-based firm, and counsel **Jason M. Price** won a \$2.75 million verdict June 12 for Mark and Lia Treviso Raynock, who were co-owners of John & Sons Automotive, a Hartford garage and gas station.

In the 2001 accident, Raynock was able to get his head and neck out of the way when a vehicle came off the lift, partially crushing him. "Otherwise, it would have killed him," Simpson said.

John & Sons continued a business founded in 1969 by Lia's father, who emigrated from Italy. Due to Mark Raynock's physical limitations resulting from the accident, the couple was forced to sell the business.

Simpson and Price used FLASH technology, Trial Director software and PowerPoint to explain to jurors the severity of Raynock's unseen injuries. The technology allowed the jurors to track expert witnesses' testimony over multiple documents. Middletown Superior Court Judge **Robert E. Beach** commented afterward that the presentation helped keep jurors attentive.

The plaintiffs made a \$350,000 offer of judgment in December 2004, which, under a new statute recently signed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell, decreases the prejudgment interest rate from 12 percent to 8 percent, Simpson said. The jury found Raynock was 35 percent negligent, reducing the award to \$1.8 million.

Kenneth G. Williams, of Hartford's **Gordon, Muir & Foley**, represented Fort Worth, Texas-based Forward Manufacturing.



ROBERT R. SIMPSON



JASON M. PRICE

—By Thomas B. Scheffey

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