

Top Connecticut Verdicts & Settlements of 2015

TOP 20 CONNECTICUT VERDICTS IN 2015

RANK	CASE	TYPE OF ACTION	PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL	PLAINTIFF'S LAW FIRM	AMOUNT
2	Supriya Sarin v. Darryl A. Simms, DMD et al.	Botched root canal causes permanent dental pain.	Robert Simpson and William Ronalter	Shipman & Goodwin	\$4.5 million

NUMBER TWO

VERDICT:	\$4.5 million
CASE NAME:	Supriya Sarin v. Darryl A. Simms, D.M.D., et al.
VENUE:	Hartford Superior Court
PLAINTIFF'S LAWYERS:	Robert Simpson and William Ronalter; Shipman & Goodwin; Hartford
DEFENSE LAWYER:	Craig Fontaine; Fontaine Alissi; Hartford

SUMMARY: A patient filed a lawsuit against her dentist after a root canal went wrong. Plaintiff's lawyers say the result was likely the biggest dental malpractice verdict in Connecticut history.

Darryl Simms, of Farmington Family Dentistry, performed the root canal on Supriya Sarin on March 15, 2011. Root canals are typically performed to save a tooth that is badly decayed. The insides of the tooth, including pulp and a nerve, are removed and the rest of the tooth is cleaned and sealed. Robert Simpson, the plaintiff's attorney, explained the complications that occurred in this case by drawing an analogy to an ice cream

cone. A sealer goes in to fill the bottom of the cone. Another substance is used to fill in the cracks along the sides.

With this root canal, Simpson said the bottom of the ice cream cone in his analogy was ripped after the doctor cut too far down with his instruments, creating an extra-deep hole. As such, the sealer went too far down into the jaw, to an important nerve in the mandibular canal. The plaintiff claims nerve injury has cause her pain ever since the root canal.

▪ **INJURIES:** The plaintiff says the unrelenting pain requires her to take frequent doses of pain medication, which cause fatigue. The pain also causes irregular sleep, and the plaintiff, who was a corporate executive, now must work from home. She claimed that the pain has negatively affected interactions with her husband and children. For example, kissing causes pain.

▪ **SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS:** The plaintiff filed a \$750,000 offer of compromise in 2013. The plaintiff's final demand to settle the case was for \$550,000. The defense's highest offer was \$200,000.

▪ **VERDICT BREAKDOWN:** Simpson asked the jury for between about \$1.5 million and \$2.5 million. The jury came back with an award of \$4.5 million. Of that amount, \$4,335,000 was for noneconomic damages.

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