

NEWS RELEASE

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ECONOMIST'S TESTIMONY HELPS 6 YEAR OLD PARAPLEGIC WIN \$5.5 MILLION IN BENCH VERDICT

Bench verdict of 5.5 million given to a 6 year old girl paralyzed on school playground.

New Orleans, Louisiana: Robert W. Johnson & Associates was retained to show the loss of economic capacity and to calculate the present value of an extensive life care plan for 6 year old paraplegic, Courtney Lorraine Cooper, of New Orleans.

Citation: *Darlene Cooper, et al. vs. Mary Darr, et al.; New Orleans Civil District, New Orleans, LA; Attorneys Ernest Lee Caulfield, Kim A. Dugas and Maurice A. Williams; New Orleans, LA.*

Case Synopsis: On December 18, 1991, Courtney Cooper, a 6 year old female, was pushed from a playground structure while at school, and was rendered T12-L1 level paraplegic as a result. Plaintiffs contended that the structure was improperly installed and that the area immediately around the structure was improperly maintained by having an insufficient depth of gravel and wood chips. Defendant's economist valued the life care plan at \$800,000 to \$1,100,000 and contended there would be no loss of wages because the child has maintained an IQ of over 120. Robert Johnson & Associates valued the life care plan at \$3,000,000 and calculated lost wages at \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000.

Attorney Comments: "Your testimony made an experienced and conservative judge very comfortable with the reasonableness of your numbers. In fact, he said your testimony was grounded in common sense and was the most understandable and sincere that he has ever heard from an economic expert."

Results: The defendants offered \$3,000,000 prior to trial. The court assigned 50 percent of the blame to the school board and 50 percent to the firms involved in the

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\$5.5 million Bench Verdict
Page 2 of 2

installation of the structure. The judge approved a total verdict of 5.5 million which included his award and the prior settlements. The girl's mother was granted \$50,000 plus interest and costs from the time the suit was filed in early 1992.

About Robert W. Johnson & Associates: A nationally recognized full service consulting firm that specializes in illustrating and quantifying non-economic damages. Consulting services include quantifying the loss of enjoyment of life (pain and suffering) in a personal injury case; quantifying the loss of love, care, comfort, society, consortium, etc. to the survivors in a wrongful death case; illustrating, with the LIFE ACTIVITY CALENDAR, the loss of enjoyment/ quality of life; analyzing structured settlements; and generating wage loss reports that include the present value of future medical expenses.

For more information, telephone Robert W. Johnson & Associates at 1-800-541-7435

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