

# NEWS RELEASE

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Robert W. Johnson & Associates

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FORENSIC ECONOMISTS  
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## ***ECONOMIST'S TESTIMONY ASSISTS JURY IN AWARDING \$30,000,000 FOR FALSE IMPRISONMENT***

**New Orleans, Louisiana:** Robert W. Johnson & Associates was retained to calculate the loss of earnings capacity for Mr. Roland Gibson, who spent the last 27 years in Angola State prison.

**Citation:** *Roland Gibson, et al., vs. The City of New Orleans, et al., Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, New Orleans, LA; Attorneys Catrice Johnson, Matthew Collins, Jr. and Dianne Marshall; New Orleans, LA.*

**Case Synopsis:** On December 30, 1967, Charles Reinecke, a cab driver, was killed during an armed robbery. Based on matching thumbprint, found in the rear of the cab, Lloyd West, an ex-con with a long criminal past was charged with the murder of Charles Reinecke. While in custody, Lloyd was subject to coercion, threats and beatings until he implicated Roland Gibson, in the death of Charles Reinecke. Lloyd West made a deal with the prosecutor wherein he would testify against Roland Gibson, plead guilty to First Degree Murder and in return the prosecutor would not pursue the death penalty. In spite of the fact that Mr. Gibson's wife testified that he was with her the night of the murder, in November of 1968, Roland Gibson was found guilty and given a life sentence.

On June 3, 1985 Lloyd West recanted his testimony implicating Roland Gibson. In two evidentiary hearings, Lloyd West gave a clear and coherent account of how and why he lied at Mr. Gibson's trial. Judge Calvin Johnson read police reports that revealed that not only had the prosecution withheld evidence that was favorable to Roland Gibson, but also that the prosecution knew that he was innocent. On February 16, 1993, Mr. Gibson was granted a new trial. The State dismissed the case for lack of evidence. In

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March of 1993, Mr. Gibson filed suit seeking damages for lost wages, false arrest, etc.

**Trial Presentation:** Mr. Robert Johnson testified that, despite Mr. Gibson's less than Honorable Discharge from the Army (prior to his arrest), his past work history as a casual laborer, on the docks of New Orleans, was the standard career path toward achieving the earnings capacity of a longshoreman. Mr. Johnson obtained historic data from the New Orleans Longshoreman's Union and used this information as the foundation for calculations of Mr. Gibson's substantial lost wages and fringe benefits. This covered the period from Mr. Gibson's incarceration and through age 65. Using the plaintiff's psychologist's determination that Mr. Gibson suffered from, incarnation induced post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and alcoholism, Mr. Johnson determined the Mr. Gibson's mitigating earnings capacity to be zero.

**Attorney Comments:** "Mr. Johnson's ability to frame, calculate and validate Mr. Gibson's lost earnings capacity was critical in establishing the high level of credibility necessary to obtain damages. Your concise, down-to-earth and clear answers during cross examination, reinforced the conservative nature of the range of damages that you presented to the jury.

**Results:** The defense offered nothing pretrial. The jury verdict was \$30,000,000, including special and general damages, but no punitive damages. Punitive damages are not recoverable.

**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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