



Cook County & Illinois
JURY VERDICT REPORTER

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MEDICAL MALPR.--NEWBORN SUFFERS BRAIN DAMAGE, SPASTIC QUADRIPLEGIA

(YY 19/2) *Grace Ligon, minor v Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation, Dr. Connie Moreland* 00L-14321 Tried: Nov. 2-21, 2006 (12B)

Verdict: **Not Guilty** v both defts

Judge: John B. Grogan (IL Cook-Law)

Pltf Atty: Kevin G. Burke of *Burke, Mahoney* Demand: \$10,000,000 Asked: \$30,000,000

Deft Attys: **Eric F. Quandt** and Ralph F. Valitutti, Jr. of *Kitch, Drutchas* (Detroit, MI) for both defts (Self-Insured) Offer: \$3,000,000 withdrawn

Pltf Medl: Dr. Howard Garry Gardner (Pediatrician), Dr. Charles Swisher (Pediatric Neurology) and Dr. Deborah Gaebler-Spira (Pediatric Rehabilitation)

Pltf Experts: Dr. John P. Elliott (Ob/Gyn), Laura Mahlmeister, R.N. (Nurse, Obstetric), Dr. Adre DuPlessis (Pediatric Neurology), Dr. Robert A. Zimmerman (Pediatric Neuroradiologist), Dr. Michael V. Johnston (Pediatric Neurology), Dr. Richard Lazar (Neurologist), Charles Linke, Ph.D. (Economist) and Dr. Melvin Douglas Cunningham, 73 Plaza Cuesta, San Juan Capistrano, CA (949-248-1722) (Neonatologist)

Deft Expert: Dr. Thomas Murphy Goodwin, USC School of Medicine, Dept. of Obstetrics, Los Angeles, CA (323-226-2710) (Ob/Gyn) for both defts

Aug. 23, 1998, baby Grace Ligon suffered hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy during her birth, allegedly due to deft obgyn's delay in performing C-section delivery. The primary injury was to the deep gray matter which controls motor function, and the child has undergone extensive physical, occupational and speech therapies since her birth. Grace, now 8 years old, suffers from spastic quadriplegia, her ambulation is limited to the use of a walker, and her speech is difficult to understand. However, her intelligence is described as normal by all of her treating physicians. Defense contended management of the labor was properly undertaken by Dr. Moreland, Dr. Moreland came to the hospital to manage the care, the fetus suffered a sudden and unpredictable cord prolapse which resulted in bradycardia, and the mother was rushed to an emergency C-section as soon as possible. Pltf did enter into a confidential settlement agreement with another deft prior to trial.