

THE CONNECTICUT LAW TRIBUNE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2006 • VOL. 32, NO. 52 • \$10.00 • WWW.CTLAWTRIBUNE.COM

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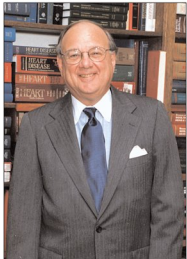
VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

Doctors Failed To Diagnose Man's Thyroid Cancer

Ellis Hall, et al. v. Michael Kelleher M.D., et al.: Three Bridgeport physicians who allegedly failed to diagnose and treat a patient's thyroid cancer have settled the case for a total of \$3,075,000.

Prior to his death in 2002, plaintiff Ellis Hall sued treating physician Michael Kelleher, ear, nose and throat doctor Jacob Z. Slepian, and primary physician Larry Novik for missing repeated opportunities to diagnose him as early as the beginning of 1998. Attorneys **Richard A. Silver**, **Peter M. Dreyer** and **Kathleen L. Brandt**, of the Stamford law firm of **Silver Golub & Teitell**, represented Hall, his estate and executor David Young.

In early 1998, Hall was being treated by Kelleher and Slepian, when CT scan and nuclear medicine testing indicated Hall had a potentially cancerous thyroid lesion. If detected early, thyroid cancer is readily treated. Although the next step should have



RICHARD SILVER

been a biopsy of the lesion, neither doctor ordered or performed it, nor did they tell Hall he had a suspicious mass in his thyroid, according to Silver.

In December 2000, Hall was experiencing severe headaches and his cancer was finally discovered by a Bridgeport-area neurologist who ordered a CT scan of Hall's brain.

Slepian was represented by **Michael P. Del Sole** of the Wallingford firm of **Del Sole & Del Sole**, while **Ronald D. Williams Jr.** and **Suzannah K. Nigro**, at Trumbull's **Williams, Cooney & Sheehy**, represented Kelleher. Novik's lawyer was **Gaileen A. Kaufman** at **Bai, Pollock, Blueweiss & Mulcahey** in Shelton.

According to Silver, the settlement payments are apportioned as follows: Slepian \$2,250,000; Kelleher \$400,000; and Novik \$425,000.

—By Thomas B. Scheffey