

CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

Drug detox

A man's death results in the largest reported 2007 medical malpractice verdict in Michigan. **Page 14.**

FOCUS: LAW

Death in drug detox

Susie Oppenheim vs. Dr. Aeneas Guiney, Project Straight Clinic

Verdict: \$35.4 million, medical malpractice, July 26, 2007.

Venue: Oakland County Circuit Court, Judge Edward Avadenka.

Filed: Sept. 1, 2005.

Plaintiff: Susie Oppenheim.

Lead lawyer: Brian McKeen, McKeen & Associates P.C., Detroit.

Defendant: Dr. Aeneas Guiney, Project Straight Clinic, Troy.

Lead lawyer: John Toth, Toth, Baldrige & Griz P.C., Bingham Farms.

In the largest reported 2007 medical malpractice verdict in Michigan, an Oakland County Circuit Court jury returned a wrongful death damages verdict against a doctor who operated a rapid drug-detox clinic called Project Straight in Troy. A patient died in 2004.

Dr. Aeneas Guiney was found negligent by a jury and ordered to pay the family of 33-year-old Danny Oppenheim Jr. of Kansas \$35.5 million. Brian McKeen, attorney for Susie Oppenheim,

Danny's mother, said that Guiney neglected to consider his patient's history of hypertension and lack of tolerance for anesthetics. When Danny's oxygen levels dropped below safe levels, the doctor and his staff failed to properly resuscitate him and he died after several days on life support, McKeen said.

Guiney's medical license was suspended in 2006 after Oppenheim and another patient died. The Project Straight clinic then closed.