

Jury sides with plaintiff in med-mal case

Suffered paralysis, leg amputation

\$17 million

On March 3, 2015, at age 70, Kathleen Bashore walked into Sparrow Hospital for a routine, outpatient procedure to improve blood flow in her legs and relieve leg cramping when walking long distances. Instead of being sent home the same day, Bashore remained hospitalized for six months. By the time she was able to return home, her left leg had been amputated. She was paralyzed from the waist down with no control of her bowels or bladder.

The injuries resulted from a calamity of preventable errors by Sparrow providers, according to plaintiff's counsel. Sparrow's nurses left surgical sheaths inserted in the patient's legs too long. As a result, Bashore suffered a blood clot that went down her



C. ENGELHARDT



GOETHEL



J. ENGELHARDT

left leg, turning it cold and blue. Sparrow's cardiovascular surgeon, Dr. Ara Pridjian, was called in to surgically remove the clot.

Instead of boarding the patient for emergency surgery to remove the blood clot and restore blood flow, Pridjian delayed surgery, scheduling it as an add-on, elective procedure at the end of the day, according to plaintiff's counsel. Investigation revealed that Pridjian disregarded critical imaging showing a large chunk of calcium blocking blood flow into the legs. Instead of bypassing the problem, Pridjian over-inflated angioplasty balloons and stents in fragile blood vessels causing them to rupture and crack, plaintiff's counsel

stated. In turn, this caused massive internal bleeding and poor blood flow to Bashore's spine and leg. This resulted in paralysis and the death of Bashore's leg, which became gangrenous and required amputation four months later. She has endured numerous subsequent surgical procedures. She will require 24/7 care for the rest of her life.

During years of pre-trial litigation and the trial itself, Pridjian told vastly different stories about what occurred while under oath, according to plaintiff's counsel. At times, Pridjian tried to blame the nurses, his own staff and the medical devices. At trial, he claimed the patient was not suffering from in-

ternal bleeding when the imaging and clinical course showed the exact opposite. In the end, the jury saw through his multiple inconsistencies and found the truth, plaintiff's counsel stated.

The defense asserted that Pridjian was not negligent in any respect. Chad D. Engelhardt, counsel for plaintiff, provided case information.

Type of action: Medical malpractice

Injuries alleged: Spinal cord injury, paralysis, amputation

Name of case: Kathleen J. Bashore v. Sparrow Health System

Court/Case no./Date: Ingham County Circuit Court/17-000273-NH/Nov. 6, 2019

Tried before: Jury

Name of judge: Hon. James S. Jamo

Demand: \$2.9 million offer of judgment

Highest offer: \$1 million

Verdict amount: \$17 million

Insurance carrier: Coverys

Attorneys for plaintiff: Chad D. Engelhardt, Stephen B. Goethel, Jennifer A. Engelhardt

Attorney for defendant: Richard J. Suhrheinrich