

## OAKLAND COUNTY

### COURT BRIEFING

#### Judgement lowered in detox death case

An Oakland County judge entered a \$17.7 million judgment against physician Aeneas Guiney in the death of a man who sought treatment at a detox center. According to attorney Brian J. McKeen, a man named Danny Oppenheim Jr. came to Michigan from out of state in 2004 to seek treatment for a painkiller addiction at the Troy-based Project Straight. McKeen said Oppenheim revealed that he had experienced problems with anesthesia, but was put under nonetheless after a cursory physical for a procedure in which a patient is anesthetized and a narcotic

antagonist pellet is put under their skin. McKeen said Oppenheim was not properly ventilated and monitored. A jury decided last year that Guiney was responsible for Oppenheim's death and ordered an award of \$35.3 million. With a cap in Michigan on non-economic damages, Oakland County Circuit Visiting Judge Edward Avadenka entered a judgment of \$17.7 million. Another doctor involved, Robert Wolf, was also sued, but the family settled out of court, according to court records. — Staff writer Ann Zaniewski