

January 28, 2014

Report: Genesee County jury issues largest state court verdict in 2013

By Gary Ridley



Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township.

Lauren Justice

FLINT, MI -- A verdict issued by a Genesee County jury was the largest ordered in a Michigan state court in 2013, according to a report by [Michigan Lawyers Weekly](#).

A [jury awarded a Flint woman](#) \$12.9 million in her lawsuit against Genesys Regional Medical Center after she claimed medical mistakes during childbirth left her daughter disfigured and without the full use of her right arm.

The \$12.9 million verdict was awarded Sept. 27 to Libbey Bryson, 38, of Flint after a 12-day trial.

Bryson's lawsuit claimed nerves controlling her daughter's right arm were severed when resident doctors pulled down too hard on the baby's head after the 8 pound, 8 ounce baby got stuck during childbirth on Jan. 1, 2008. Detroit-based attorney Brian McKeen, who represents Bryson, said the baby's arm had become stuck on the pelvic bone during birth and doctors should have done a cesarean section or delivered using a method that would have caused less strain on the baby.

McKeen's Detroit-based law firm, McKeen & Associates, had four other multi-million dollar settlements that ranked among the 25 largest in the state, according to the report.

"Achieving these verdicts and settlements is testimony to the hard work of our staff and the experts we use," McKeen said in a statement. "Our goal is to achieve a recovery for the client. While it can never replace the loss of a loved one, or take away from a permanent injury, the goal is to do as much as possible within our civil justice system to provide them with full recompense."

Genesee Circuit Judge Joseph J. Farah, who oversaw the trial, has said the award is the largest any jury has returned in his courtroom in his eight years hearing civil cases.

The largest judgment issued by any court in the state was a \$70 million judgment ordered in a federal court following a jury trial for a patent infringement lawsuit filed by Stryker Corp. against Zimmer Inc., according to the report.