

HELEN ROBERTA VICKERY, ET AL. V. GLENN W. VICKERY, ET AL.

Big Deals, Big Suits

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Ronald Krist and Richard Merrisen, name partners in Houston's KRIST, GUNN, WELLER, NEUMANN & MORRISON, and Rey D. Mease, a name partner in MEASE & RORICK of Pasadena, won a \$9.45 million jury verdict May 24 in a malpractice suit stemming from the 1991 divorce of Baytown lawyer Glenn **Vickery**.

A jury in 311th District Judge *Bill Elliot's* court found that **Vickery**, of GLENN **VICKERY** & ASSOCIATES, and Houston solo practitioner *Dionne Richards* breached their fiduciary duty to **Vickery's** ex-wife, **Helen**, in connection with the divorce, and that **Vickery** committed fraud against **Helen Vickery** in dividing their marital property. The jury said **Vickery** should pay his ex-wife \$6.7 million in actual damages for loss of marital property and \$1.3 million for mental anguish, and \$1 million in punitive damages. Richards was assessed a total of \$450,000 in actual damages.

Elliot took under advisement the plaintiffs' request May 31 to enter a judgment awarding the \$9.45 million in damages plus nearly \$1.5 million in prejudgment interest.

Both **Vickery** and Richards said they will appeal. **Vickery** was represented by Houston solo practitioner *Burta Raborn*, while *Gregg Weinberg*, a shareholder in Houston's GIESSEL, STONE, BARKER & LYMAN, represented Richards.

Helen Vickery had alleged in the suit that **Vickery** had misrepresented his reasons for wanting a divorce and gave her too little of the marital property from their 13-year marriage. She alleged she hired Richards at Glenn **Vickery's** suggestion, and the attorney did not represent her interests in the divorce.

Plaintiffs' attorney Krist said he asked the jury for \$9 million in damages against **Vickery** and left damages against Richards up to the jurors.