

# JVR

**JURY VERDICT REPORTER**  
ANNUAL AWARDS ISSUE

# 2015

## TRIAL LAWYERS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HIGHEST PEORIA COUNTY PERSONAL INJURY

# \$17,500,000

VERDICT OR SETTLEMENT

### Vision Loss Follows Hernia Surgery With Complications

SETTLEMENT  
\$17,500,000



John Kirkton, editor, Jury Verdict Reporter presents Jill M. Webb with a Trial Lawyer Excellence Award

#### CASE REPORT

**TERRY NICHOLS V. METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER, ET AL. 06L-117**

**SETTLEMENT** \$17,500,00 (IL Peoria 10th Jud Cir)

**PLTF ATTY(S)** Stephen D. Phillips and Jill M. Webb of Phillips Law Offices.

April 23, 2004 M-36, a stay at home father of three young children, underwent laparoscopic surgery to repair a “basketball-size” inguinal hernia, performed by Dr. Rodney McCalla at Methodist Medical Center (Peoria). During the procedure, pltf’s bowel was perforated--an injury that was not timely detected and repaired--leading to an abdominal infection, abdominal compartment syndrome, sepsis, multi-organ failure, cardiac arrest, and bilateral ischemic neuropathy (blindness).

Pltf has complete vision loss in one eye, and can see only shadows with the other. During pltf’s post-op hospitalization he contracted a MRSA infection in his left hip, which led to osteomyelitis and necessitated removal of the hip bone (hip replacement done).

His medical expenses approached \$2 million. This settlement was the subject of an article in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. Paid: \$13.5 million by Methodist Medical Center (\$3 million self-insured retention plus \$10.5 million excess through AEIX; \$2 million each for Dr. McCalla and Associated Surgical Group Inc. by ISMIE.

This is the highest personal injury verdict or settlement that we have reported from Peoria county.