

## **INSURERS FAIL TO BLOCK PLEURAL PLAQUES COMPENSATION**

An attempt by insurers to block compensation payments for people exposed to asbestos has today been quashed by a high court judge.

The insurance industry's failure in *Grieves v others* to overturn the law and abolish compensation for 'pleural plaques' – a scarring of the lungs which results from asbestos exposure – is a clear victory for justice over greed, according to Colin Ettinger, president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

“This was nothing more than a shameless and greedy attempt by insurers to save yet more money at the expense of injured people,” he said. “At least sufferers now have the peace of mind of knowing they can claim compensation for years of living in fear because they are worried about what the future holds for them – living day in day out wondering if they will go on to develop a lung disease which could kill them.”

Ettinger said he was disappointed, though, with the level of compensation awarded in these particular cases, which is less than the county courts have been awarding to people with pleural plaques, for the last twenty years.

“Of course the long-term impact of this on other county court judgments remains to be seen,” he said.

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