DAILY JOURNAL

Verdicts & Settlements — March 2025

CASE AT A GLANCE

Case: Adria Snover v. CARE Risk Retention Group
Forum: JAMS Arbitration
Date: March 31, 2025
Award: $35,415,885
Punitive Damages: $25 million
Arbitrator: David A. Thompson

$35.4 Million Arbitration Award in Insurance Bad Faith Case

Punitive Damages Total $25 Million

Adria Snover v. CARE Risk Retention Group
JAMS Arbitration | March 31, 2025
Arbitrator: David A. Thompson

An arbitrator awarded **$35,415,885** to plaintiff Adria Snover and physician Aruna Gupta, M.D., finding that CARE Risk Retention Group acted in bad faith by failing to settle a medical malpractice action within policy limits.

Snover, then 26, suffered a cardio-respiratory arrest following the delivery of her child on Dec. 10, 2018. She filed suit against Dr. Gupta, the hospital, and the anesthesiologist in November 2019. The anesthesiologist later settled for $1 million, and the hospital resolved its claims for $2.5 million, leaving Dr. Gupta as the sole remaining defendant.

CARE RRG issued a declining-benefits policy under which defense costs eroded the available limits. After the court denied Dr. Gupta's motion for summary judgment in August 2021, Gupta consented to settlement within the remaining policy limits. Despite expert opinions indicating significant liability exposure, CARE RRG maintained an offer of $100,000.

Following trial, a jury returned a verdict exceeding $17 million. CARE RRG exhausted the remaining policy limits on defense costs, leaving Dr. Gupta personally exposed. Dr. Gupta assigned her bad-faith rights to Snover and filed her own first-party bad-faith claim.

Arbitration Award Breakdown

Adria Snover: $5,415,885
Aruna Gupta, M.D.: $5,000,000
Punitive Damages: $25,000,000

Snover has appealed the trial court's application of settlement offsets, seeking an additional $2 million plus prejudgment interest.

Attorneys
Plaintiff: Bruce G. Fagel; Kenneth M. Silberberg; Joseph DiMonda
Defense: Michael L. Gulotta; Robert Benjamin