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Jury awards largest medical malpractice verdict in Colorado

DENVER, April 3, 2015 – Leventhal & Puga, P.C., attorneys Jim Puga and Sean Leventhal obtained a \$17.8 million verdict against Children’s Hospital Colorado on March 27, from a jury in Arapahoe County – the largest medical malpractice verdict in Colorado history.

The case involved a medication error prior to surgery for then-four-day-old Naomi Pressey, who was born with a common congenital heart defect, which can be easily repaired with surgery.

After Naomi was born Feb. 6, 2008, in Colorado Springs, she was transferred to Children’s Hospital Colorado in Aurora, where doctors confirmed the diagnosis and put her on a medication called prostaglandin, which Naomi would have to be on until surgery.

Hospital staff gave Naomi the wrong dose of prostaglandin and the infant went into cardiac arrest on the operating table, on Feb. 10, 2008. They could not resuscitate her for 33 minutes, which caused Naomi to suffer a severe hypoxic ischemic brain injury, resulting in cerebral palsy, among other conditions.

Now 7 years old, Naomi suffers from significant intellectual disability, cognitive impairment, as well as serious gross and fine motor skill impairment. Throughout her life, she will require round-the-clock care and supervision.

“No family should have to go through what we’ve had to endure. Our family has experienced incredible pain throughout this very difficult situation,” said Jennifer Pressey, Naomi’s mother. “Words cannot express how grateful we are that Leventhal & Puga has made it possible for our daughter to receive the lifelong care she will need.”

With interest and costs, the verdict will exceed \$20 million. After state-mandated damage caps are applied, the nearly \$1 million awarded in non-economic damages will be reduced to \$300 thousand.

“We are pleased with the jury’s verdict. Clearly the jury understood the complexity of this medical malpractice case,” Puga said. “While this verdict cannot erase the suffering of Naomi and her family, it will at least ensure her ongoing needs and care – for the rest of her life – are provided for.”

Leventhal & Puga took the case in 2008. The case was tried in Arapahoe County District Court last month, and the jury returned a verdict on March 27.

The highly-regarded Institute of Medicine of the National Academies estimated that at least 1.5 million *preventable* adverse drug events occur each year in the United States.

ABOUT LEVENTHAL & PUGA, P.C.

Renowned as Colorado's premier plaintiffs' personal injury and medical malpractice firm, [Leventhal & Puga, P.C.](#), handles a wide array of cases from aviation to trucking to insurance bad faith. The firm offers a unique blend of professionalism and outside-the-box solutions.

Bringing a deep understanding of law and medicine to each case, Leventhal & Puga attorneys use their comprehensive knowledge and proven expertise to expand, create and refine their techniques to address the unique circumstances of each case.

As a result of this innovative approach, the firm's lawyers have achieved multiple groundbreaking decisions in the fields of medical negligence and personal injury. The firm offers its services to those who need them regardless of income level, advancing the cost of litigation for clients who cannot afford to pay.

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