

[Menu](#)

\$9M verdict for family of hunter exposed to asbestos in gun shells

By Emma Oxnevad eoxxnevad@lawbulletinmedia.com
Posted July 28, 2025 2:53 PM CDT

A jury returned a \$9 million verdict for the family of an Illinois hunter who died of mesothelioma after decades of using shotgun shells that contained asbestos.

Janet Schoepke sued E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co. and Sporting Goods Properties Inc. in the Superior Court of the State of Delaware as the administrator of her husband Eugene Schoepke's estate, seeking damages for his 2022 death.

The first amended complaint alleged that Eugene Schoepke, 84, developed mesothelioma after being exposed for two decades to shotgun shells containing asbestos, beginning in the 1960s.

The shells were manufactured by E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., which is now known as DuPont, and Remington Arms Co., which became a subsidiary of E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co. in 1980 and is now



Devitt Cooney

David O. Barrett known as Sporting

Goods Properties.

Further, the lawsuit alleged that the defendants failed to disclose and remove the asbestos from the shells, among other claims.

[David O. Barrett](#) and [Devitt Cooney](#) of [Cooney & Conway](#) represented the estate.

Barrett said an investigation of the shotgun shells conducted by microscopist Steven Compton determined that the shells contained asbestos.

"The foundation of the case is the study carried out by Dr. Compton and his team," Barrett said. "He determined that the shells do, in fact, release significant concentrations of asbestos fiber when they're discharged from a firearm."

Cooney said the team was "satisfied that justice had been done."

"Eugene Schoepke hunted to feed his family," Cooney said. "And in doing so it ultimately took his life."

The case was originally filed in [Cook County Circuit Court](#), but was transferred to [Marshall County Circuit Court](#), Barrett said. The suit was then filed in Delaware, where DuPont is headquartered, he said.

There are six additional cases against the defendants set for trial with similar allegations, Barrett added. The Schoepke matter is the first asbestos shotshell case to be tried to verdict, according to the estate's attorneys.

The verdict was reached July 23.

Judge Sean P. Lugg presided over the case.

The defendants were represented by Andrew T. Mortl of California firm Glynn Finley, Christopher S. Kozak of [MG+M The Law Firm's](#) New Jersey office and Gloria Martinez Trattles of [Crowell & Moring LLP's](#) Washington, D.C., office.

The attorneys could not be reached for comment, nor could a media representative for DuPont and Remington.

The case is Schoepke v. EIDP, et al., No. N23C 09 059.

Practice Areas: [Personal Injury Law](#)



HON. PATRICK LUSTIG, RET.
MEDIATOR | ARBITRATOR

Leader in hospital and nursing
home negligence mediation

RESOLUTE SYSTEMS, LLC

FEATURED PROFILES



David O.
Barrett



J. Devitt
Cooney Jr.



Cooney &
Conway



Circuit
Court of
Cook
County



MG+M The
Law Firm
(aka
Manning
Gross
Massenburg
LLP)



Crowell
&
Moring
LLP

SCOTT BRITTON, ESQ.
MEDIATOR | ARBITRATOR

> Resolute Systems
welcomes Scott
Britton to our team
of Mediators

[LEARN MORE](#)



RESOLUTE
DISPUTE RESOLUTION NATIONWIDE

(312) 346-3770

[About Us](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Submissions](#)
[Public Notices](#)

[Subscribe](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[Advertise](#)
[Law Bulletin Media](#)

[40 Under Forty](#)
[JVR TLE](#)
[Awards](#)
[Women In Law](#)