

\$2 Million Verdict in Whistleblower Retaliation Trial Against LA County Hospital

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (March 16, 2022)— A Los Angeles jury leveled a \$2.1 million judgment on Wednesday against Los Angeles County for retaliating against a vascular surgeon who blew the whistle at Harbor UCLA Medical Center regarding unlawful and unethical activity that compromised patient safety for another surgeon's financial gain.

Timothy Ryan, M.D. sued the County for whistleblower retaliation after refusing to perform and reported a surgical procedure that he believed involved insurance fraud and was medically unnecessary. The procedure was part of a "course" for which surgeons at Harbor UCLA received kickbacks from Medtronic's medical device company. After reporting this conduct, Dr. Ryan received no protection from the County but was instead subjected to rampant retaliation for years.

"This case is about holding surgery department leadership and hospital administrators accountable for the misconduct of physicians that puts patients' lives at risk," said lead trial attorney Mark Quigley with Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP. "Instead of taking our client's claims seriously, they made his life a living hell by destroying his career path, simply because he did the right thing" added Quigley.

The five-week trial revealed that Chief of Vascular Surgery, Rodney White M.D, was paid fees for Medtronic "courses" and fished through patient charts to find this particular patient for an upcoming course. Trial testimony exposed how Dr. White and his subordinates convinced and coerced the patient into undergoing a stent-graft procedure by fabricating symptoms for purposes of obtaining insurance authorization. Courtroom testimony showed how the patient underwent the medically unnecessary stent graft and had a complication (retrograde dissection and stroke) resulting in severe and permanent physical injuries.

"As physicians, we are ethically bound to put the patient's interest first. Physicians must not be driven or influenced by our own financial gain, particularly when that money comes from a surgical implant manufacturer. I spoke out because it was the right thing to do. Rather than having my complaints investigated, I became the target of retaliation, and the hospital chose to ultimately ignore the fundamental duty to protect patients in our care," said Dr. Timothy Ryan.

"Rather than receive the protection he was assured by his employer to have, Dr. Ryan became a pariah at work after he reported these dangerous and unethical practices," said GBW trial attorney Aaron Osten. "We're glad the jury recognized the damage caused to Dr. Ryan's career when an institution chooses profits over people."

The plaintiff's legal team includes partners Mark Quigley and Aaron Osten with Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP. The Los Angeles law firm has recovered billions of dollars for clients in California and nationwide. Its team of attorneys litigates complex personal injury cases—such as cases involving motor vehicle accidents, insurance bad faith, sexual abuse, catastrophic injuries, and more—exclusively working on the plaintiffs'

side. To learn more about the premier firm and its award-winning trial lawyers, visit <https://www.gbw.law>