

...n M. Cheronis and Aaron B. Goldstein, two of the  
e attorneys for former Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich. The  
m airs from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.  
sted by attorney Karen Conti, the show will address the  
evich case verdict, sentencing and potential appeal.

## nd town

deal that was set to take effect today, Chicago-based law  
nsulting agency Hildebrandt, Baker, Robbins has spun off  
s parent, Thomson Reuters, to create an independent  
ing agency.

ewly formed, Chicago-based business will operate  
the name HBR Consulting LLC, and it will be led by  
opher Petrini-Poli, according to a statement posted  
ly on HBR Consulting's website.

R Consulting, which will serve law firms and law  
ments, will continue to partner with Thomson Reuters  
gements where the two companies have mutual  
ts, according to the announcement.

mson Reuters acquired Hildebrandt International in  
nd later added technology and IT consulting firm Baker,  
s & Co. in 2007. The two firms officially merged in 2009  
te Hildebrandt, Baker, Robbins within the law group of  
on Reuters.

## leral court

The Associated Press

deral judge in Chicago has sentenced a Romanian man to  
ars in prison in connection with a plan to hide money  
d through an international fraud scheme.

ral prosecutors said 33-year-old Adrian Ghighina of  
est, Romania, was sentenced Wednesday after pleading  
n February to wire fraud and conspiracy.

rt records show Ghighina was involved in a complex  
t fraud conspiracy that created fraudulent online auc-  
r expensive items. Those who responded were directed  
payments for nonexistent items to accounts Ghighina  
led.

ms never received their items.

ecutors said Ghighina admits moving from city to city  
ning new bank accounts in which to deposit his illegal  
He opened accounts in Illinois, Washington, D.C.,  
New York and Arizona.

e

stina M. Phillips, an associate at Childress, Duffy Ltd.,  
an appointed vice chairwoman of the American Bar  
tion's TIPS Property Insurance Law General Com-  
within the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section for the  
112 fiscal year.

ey law firm, Phillips focuses her practice on insurance  
y and related litigation.

## aid

is Legal Aid Online is seeking experienced attorneys to  
er as mentors as part of its Pro Bono Mentor Matching  
on IllinoisProBono.org.

new system matches mentors and mentees based on  
ncluding practice areas, skills sought, type of assistance  
nty location.

ore information, click on the "Mentor/Case Match" tab  
isProBono.org.

iled by Maria Kantzavelos, mkantzavelos@lbp.com



McAndrews, Held & Malloy Ltd. participated in a service project at Erie Neighborhood House in June. The firm's attorneys and staff helped the organization by painting houses and also organized a book drive where it donated used books or purchased new books for the children at the Erie Neighborhood House. In the photo (from left to right) is extern Tom Owens, associate Brianne M. Straka and partner Sarah A. Kofflin.

## Suit over brain injury claim results in a record verdict in Macon County

By Maria Kantzavelos  
Law Bulletin staff writer

A Macon County jury this week awarded a \$3.09 million judgment to a man who claimed he suffered a brain injury when a large storage tank at a corn processing plant in Decatur ruptured, releasing a wave of hot liquid corn gluten that knocked the man off his feet.

Tuesday's jury verdict is the largest verdict ever recorded in Macon County for a case involving a brain injury, shattering that county's previous high verdict of \$1.2 million for a brain injury case, said John L. Kirkton, editor of the Illinois Jury Verdict Reporter.

On March 19, 2007, William Clay Jones, now 40; of Shelbyville, was a laborer waiting for his shift to begin at the Tate & Lyle corn processing plant. He was serving as a contract employee hired to perform maintenance work there, said Michael L. Teich of Rapoport Law Offices P.C., who represented the plaintiff.

Jones was standing near an above ground storage tank when the tank unexpectedly ruptured and spilled its contents: 300,000 gallons of hot corn gluten, a liquid with a consistency similar to that of milk that was heated to a temperature of about 115 degrees, Teich said.

The wave of gluten swept over Jones and knocked him down. The laborer couldn't remember what happened next, his attorney said, but at some point during

the event he hit his head and suffered a closed head injury.

Parts of Jones' body were burned and he was later diagnosed with a brain injury that resulted in short-term memory loss and a personality change.

"His family says he gets angry more easily and his personality has changed," Teich said.

At trial, the plaintiff's attorney said, the jury heard testimony from his client's mother, sister and grandmother, "who all testified that he showed signs of short-term memory loss on a daily basis and had difficulty keeping track of appointments and things of that nature.

"They also testified that he was no longer the warm and affectionate person he had been prior to this occurrence."

During the seven-day trial, with Macon County Associate Judge Thomas E. Little presiding, Teich said he argued that the storage tank ruptured because of a buildup of corrosion or rust that Tate & Lyle should have found and corrected.

Tate & Lyle was represented by Decatur attorney Evan H. Johnson of Erickson, Davis, Murphy, Johnson & Walsh Ltd. Efforts to reach Johnson this week were unsuccessful.

Teich said the defense maintained that the company's inspection program was sufficient and the corrosion could not have been detected due to an unusual design

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four country songs me but have different

where the song came from, he said he performed that a thousand times."

Over the years he began to hear that the Top Notchmen were doing a similar song, but he said he didn't care to follow his ex-wife's gigs.

Then, after playing "Yodelin' Boy Polka" about 18 months ago, he said a woman came up to him and said, "That was great. You must have learned it from the Top Notchmen."

"There was fire in my eyes, believe me," he said. "I, of course, explained to her I had written the song, and then I decided I had to do something about this."

Melgaard said he and his wife don't know what to make of Rubenzer's lawsuit.

"It's probably about more than the song," he said.

and his wife haven't "Sing" since they got a er's attorney in March. w remaining CDs that ff the market. od enough, Rubenzer

o put apologies in the isn't really their song," ose lawsuit seeks un- en requested "Yodelin' imes two or three times a his ex-wife was in the e song while he yodeled recalled. s she didn't remember

element of the tank, which hid the corrosion behind a steel beam welded to the outside of the tank.

"I think that the jury did not accept the defense contention that a large company, operating numerous storage tanks, can adequately inspect its tanks and yet allow one of them to become so rusty that it suddenly collapses," Teich said.

The damages phase of the trial presented a significant challenge for the plaintiff's attorney, he said.

Teich said he asked the jury to return a \$6 million verdict in his client's favor, while the defense argued for a not guilty verdict or, in the alternative, an award of no more than \$500,000.

He said the defense argued that the plaintiff — who has been working in a different job since the accident, raising cattle and baling hay — was not hurt as badly as he claimed.

The defense argued that the plaintiff failed to mitigate his damages by not seeking certain medical care recommended by his treating neuropsychologist and by not returning to his former employer when he was released to full duty two months after the accident, Teich said.

The only available results of studies that were performed on Jones — a CT scan and an EEG — did not reveal any damage to his brain, the plaintiff's attorney said.

"We didn't have any scans that we could show the jury that we could use to pinpoint: Here's the part of the brain that was hurt," Teich said. "That type of evidence was not available with this type of injury."

"That was probably the biggest challenge in the case, convincing the jury that

despite a lack of objective visual evidence of a brain injury, that the injury was real and the problems falling from the injury were real."

Additionally, Teich said, the plaintiff had been diagnosed with a learning disability and had been enrolled in a few special education classes while in high school. He said the defense raised the argument that it would be difficult if not impossible to know what problems were caused by the accident and what was pre-existing.

But Teich said he was able to effectively counter those arguments through the testimony of his client's treating neuropsychologist, who said his own neuropsychological testing is capable of distinguishing between new brain damage and any pre-existing dysfunction.

"That, coupled with the reports of the plaintiff's family, that his memory now was impaired compared to how it was before the accident and that his personality was different was sufficient evidence for the jury to determine that this damage was real," Teich said.

The case is *William C. Jones v. Tate & Lyle Ingredients Americas Inc.*, No. 07 L 152.

The largest reported Macon County personal-injury verdict is \$7 million and the largest reported award of any kind, verdict or settlement, from that county is \$9.5 million, in a business-related class action, the Jury Verdict Reporter's Kirkton said.

The publication has reported only three Macon County personal-injury verdicts that are higher than this case's \$3.09 million.

E-mail: [mkantzavelos@lbpc.com](mailto:mkantzavelos@lbpc.com)

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ted the difference could r cities in those states ume political muscle as o two legendary mayors h of whom served more oth Daleys emphasized city's new mayor, Rahm k office in May, certainly e issue, but might not ed carry to be a top

"When you control the money for all the legislators for the state, then you have a huge amount of power over how people vote."

The state's most powerful politicians come from Chicago and collectively dominate the Illinois Legislature. The governor, Senate president, House speaker and attorney general are all Chicago Democrats.

Gov. Patrick J. Quinn has promised to veto concealed carry legislation if it were to reach his desk.

"I don't agree with those advocates who feel that that is a measure for public safety. I think it's the opposite," Quinn said last week.

on, executive director of Rifle Association, agreed sets Illinois apart from

e places have something machine," Pearson said.

# The New York Times Crossword Puzzle

No. 0626

MOBILE By David Levinson Wilk / Edited by Will Shortz

- 49 Tampa paper, briefly, with "the"
- 50 Blackmore heroine
- 51 Washed (down)
- 54 Female co-star in "Love Crazy," 1941
- 55 Stirrup?
- 57 Tolkien creatures
- 58 41-Down was named after one: Abbr.
- 59 Scarlett O'Hara's real first name
- 60 Voiced
- 61 Summer sign
- 62 Little dipper?
- 63 Claimed
- 64 Chop
- 65 The Mavericks, on scoreboards
- 66 Up for grabs, as convention
- 84 \_\_\_ Friday's
- 85 Interlocks
- 86 \_\_\_ acid
- 88 Response to the query "Does Ms. Garbo fist-bump??"
- 94 Summer mo.
- 95 "Rock 'n' Roll Is King" band, 1983
- 96 Make it
- 97 Actress Polo
- 98 See 33-Down
- 99 Polynesian potable
- 100 They're often said to be fair
- 102 Love before war?
- 106 Looms
- 107 Shocking, in a way
- 108 Leonard of literature
- 11 Country star \_\_\_ Lynne
- 12 "Così fan \_\_\_"
- 13 Agcy. with a list of prohibited items
- 14 Tree whose two-word name, when switched around, identifies its product
- 15 A Fonda
- 16 Plane over Yemen, maybe
- 17 College town just off Interstate 95
- 18 Thief, in Yiddish
- 19 Wolf (down)
- 24 When doubled, a number puzzle
- 29 Credit
- 32 "Totem and Taboo" writer
- 33 With 98-Across, showy play

