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suits & deals

Jury Awards \$3.2M Over Negligence By Parents In Sex Assault By Son

A Middlesex County jury awarded \$3.16 million on Aug. 6 to the family of a girl who was sexually assaulted by her landlord's son.

J.T., then 13, sexually assaulted P.G., then 6, on April 10, 2004, while their families were sharing a house in New Brunswick. J.T. pleaded guilty in Family Court to sodomy and related charges, offenses that, if committed by an adult, would constitute first degree sexual assault.

The girl's mother sued, claiming the boy's parents were negligent for failing to warn their tenants that their son had dangerous propensities. The boy was once caught at school using a mirror to look up a girl's skirt, and he once picked a fist fight with a boy, the suit said.

The jury awarded the girl and her family \$3 million for pain and suffering, \$150,000 for the girl's future psychiatric care and \$12,900 for her past psychiatric care.

The defendants' homeowners' insurance is with Shelby Casualty Insurance Co. It is insolvent and under control of the Property Liability Insurance Guaranty Association, which only allows payouts of a maximum of \$300,000, says the attorney for the girl and her family, **Barry Eichen** of **Eichen, Levinson & Crutchlow** in Edison.

The boy and his family were represented by Elizabeth solo **Hugo Villalobos**, who did not return a call about the case, P.G. by her guardian ad litem N.I. v. J.T.

Superior Court Judge Phillip Paley presided at the trial.



BARRY EICHEN

PHOTO BY CARMEN NATALE

WARNING WAS NEEDED:
Barry Eichen contended that his clients should have been told of the youth's history.

— Charles Toutant