
THE BRECHNER REPORT

Volume 24, Number 9 ■ A monthly report of mass media law in Florida
Published by The Brechner Center for Freedom of Information ■ College of Journalism and Communications ■ University of Florida
September 2000

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The U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Florida held that the gag order was unconstitutional. The court balanced whether the public's interest was served while maintaining the tobacco companies' rights to a fair trial. The court held that the gag order was not necessary to ensuring a fair trial because there was no proven threat. (4/5/00) (Editor's Note: See related story on *The Back Page*)

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Carson accused Judge Will of ignoring the law in order to promote a personal agenda. Carson said he plans to appeal the ruling. (6/16/00)

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The investigation was dropped after his death. (8/2/00)

Use inmate's legal name says judge

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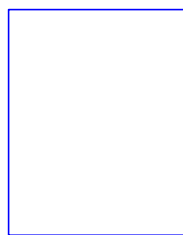
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The Florida courts ruled that the jury could award punitive damages in a single lump sum for all litigants in the class, rather than assess them individually one smoker at a time. This ruling rendered the tobacco defendants vulnerable to a potentially massive and possibly industry shattering punitive damage verdict. Indeed, on July 14, 2000, the jury awarded the class \$145 billion in punitive damages – the largest damages award in U.S. history.

Judge Kaye has appealed the ruling to the Eleventh Circuit.

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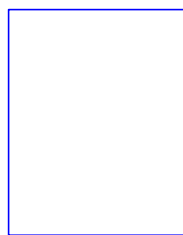
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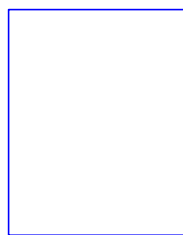
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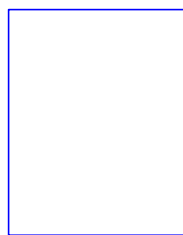
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