

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**May 21, 2018**

A Saline County Judge has entered a ten million dollar (\$10,000,000.00) Wrongful Death verdict in favor of the Estate of Carla Burns and against Dr. Brian Burns, who is currently incarcerated and awaiting trial on charges for murdering his wife, Carla Burns. An additional one million dollar (\$1,000,000.00) verdict was entered against Dr. Burns and in favor of Carla's children for interfering with Carla Burns' remains.

Stephen W. Stone of the law firm of Howerton, Dorris, Stone & Lambert represented the Estate and Carla Burns' children in the lawsuit. The ten million dollar and one million dollar verdicts are believed to be the highest of their kind ever returned in Saline County.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SALINE COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS

JOSHUA QUINNEY, Administrator)
Of the Estate of Carla Burns,)
JOSHUA QUINNEY, individually,)
And JACOB QUINNEY)

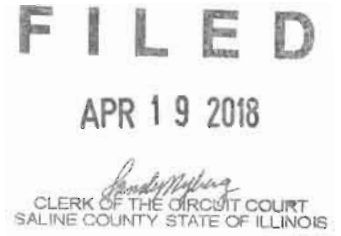
Plaintiffs)

vs.)

BRIAN BURNS)

Defendant)

18-L-1



VERDICT

This matter was called for hearing on this 19th day of April, 2018, on the issue of damages following the entry of Judgment of Default, entered of record on February 22, 2018, with notice of Judgment of Default having been provided to defendant;

Joshua Quinney, Administrator of the Estate of Carla Burns, is present in his representative capacity on behalf the Estate and in his individual capacity as the natural born son of Carla Burns and thus next of kin as defined by the Wrongful Death Act;

Jacob Quinney, natural born son of Carla Burns and thus next of kin as defined by the Wrongful Death Act, is present;

Renae Zappa, sister to Carla Burns and aunt of Joshua and Jacob Quinney, is present;

Elaine Enos, mother of Carla Burns, is present.

Stephen W. Stone, counsel for Jacob Quinney and Joshua Quinney in his representative and individual capacities is present.

Testimony of Joshua Quinney, Jacob Quinney, and Renae Zappa is taken and considered. A life table is admitted into evidence.

The Court finds that Carla Burns was born on March 25, 1966 and was forty-nine years old at the time of her death. The court considers a life table admitted into evidence which suggests that the statistical life expectancy of Carla Burns would have been 32.65 years.

The Court finds that Joshua and Jacob Quinney were the natural born sons of Carla Burns; that each enjoyed a loving relationship with their mother, a loving relationship that was likely to continue for the period of Carla Burns' life expectancy, during which time it was expected that Carla Burns would have provided counsel, mentoring, and guidance to each of her sons, together with companionship that occurs on holidays and special occasions, as well as frequent communication by phone and email.

The Court notes that Illinois law presumes that the losses suffered by lineal next of kin are "substantial." *Ferraro v. Augustine* (1964), 45 Ill. App. 2d 295, 196 N.E.2d 16. Nothing of record rebuts this presumption. On the contrary, the evidence was compelling that Carla Burns provided companionship, instruction, moral training, gifts of money, necessities, and material things of enjoyment in the past, which was likely to continue into the future.

The Court notes that Illinois law recognizes as compensable grief, sorrow, and mental suffering experienced by lineal next of kin. (740 ILCS 180/2, as amended by Public Act 95-3) The evidence is overwhelming (both in the spoken word and in the manner in which each of the witnesses testified) that Joshua and Jacob Quinney have experienced and continue to experience grief, sorrow, and mental suffering associated with the untimely death of their mother.

Lastly, while the Court is empowered to find that the losses inflicted upon lineal next of kin can vary as between one and another, this Court does find that the losses suffered by Joshua and Jacob Quinney are equal, and thus their distributive share of the Court's Wrongful Death verdict shall be distributed to each of them in equal shares.

The Court having considered the matter and guided by law and precedent, hereby enters this verdict on Count I against defendant Brian Burns and in favor of Joshua Quinney, Administrator of the Estate of Carla Burns in the amount of Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00), representing a loss to each of Carla Burns' lineal next of kin in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

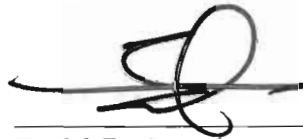
As to Count II and III, it is alleged that defendant mutilated and concealed the remains of Carla Burns, thereby causing emotional harm to Jacob and Joshua Quinney. The Illinois Supreme Court in *Cochran v. Securitas Sec. Servs. USA*, 2017 IL 121200, 2017 Ill. LEXIS 665 recently held that such a claim is recognized in this state. Thus, the court does find Jacob

and Joshua Quinney experienced emotional harm in consequence to learning that defendant mutilated and concealed the remains of their mother.

As to Count II, a verdict in the amount of \$500,000.00 is entered in favor of Joshua Quinney and against defendant Brian Burns.

As to Count III, a verdict in the amount of \$500,000.00 is entered in favor of Jacob Quinney and against defendant Brian Burns.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 19 day of April, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TDL', written over a horizontal line.

Todd D. Lambert, Judge Presiding