

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin®

Volume 154, No. 155

Thursday, August 7, 2008

— In the News —

In Circuit Court

The estate of a 34-year-old woman who died after giving birth to a child has settled a lawsuit against a hospital for \$1.75 million, the plaintiff's attorney said.

After giving birth to a daughter at Evanston Hospital in April 2003, Regina Pavichevich complained of a severe headache, stomach pain and elevated blood pressure.

A CT scan revealed nothing unusual, but lab tests suggested that she was suffering from HELLP syndrome, which is hemolytic anemia, elevated liver enzymes and a low platelet count.

She suffered respiratory arrest while undergoing an MRI, and was later diagnosed with a massive cerebral hemorrhage that was deemed to not be treatable by a neurosurgeon. She died the next day.

The lawsuit alleged that her high blood pressure caused and contributed to the cerebral hemorrhage.

The suit also alleged that the hospital staff was negligent for not treating her with hypertension medication to reduce blood pressure.

Barry R. Chafetz of Corboy & Demetrio P.C. represented the estate. Evanston Hospital was represented by **Michael J. Morrissey** and **Robert S. Burtker** of Cassiday, Schade LLP.

The settlement was reached after mediation conducted by **Donald P. O'Connell**.

The settlement applies only to Evanston Hospital. The suit is still pending against the obstetrician.

Zoran Pavichevich, etc. v. Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, et al., No. 2004 L 4345 A.