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— In the News —

In Circuit Court

A \$1 million settlement has been reached in a wrongful death case against a urologist who allegedly failed to diagnose a man's bladder cancer in time, according to the lawyer representing the man's family.

In late 2002, Daniel Russell was referred to Dr. Jeffery Norris of Northwest Suburban Urologists Ltd., seeking a second opinion regarding his complaints of urinary difficulties, according to **Stephan D. Blandin** of Romanucci & Blandin LLC, who represented the man's family. The plaintiffs contended that the urologist did not perform a cystoscopy to rule out bladder cancer, despite the patient's presentation of early signs and symptoms of such cancer. Rather, Blandin said, the physician advised the man that his issues were behavioral and that there was no risk to his upper or lower urinary tracts.

In early 2004, Russell returned to the same urologist, who performed a cystoscopy, confirming the presence of a tumor, which was discovered to be late stage muscle invasive bladder cancer, Blandin said. Russell died in April 2006.

Defense attorneys **Randall J. Gudmundson** and **Erin S. Davis** of Kominiarek, Bresler, Harvick & Gudmundson LLC represented the urologist and his group. They could not be reached for comment.

The parties reached the settlement on Thursday, Blandin said, in the midst of trial before Cook County Circuit Judge **Donald J. O'Brien Jr.** The case is *Carmen Russell v. Jeffery Norris, M.D., et al.*, No. 06 L 3887.