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Lashly & Baer Attorneys Win Jury Verdicts for SLUCare and US Bancorp

June was a successful month for the litigation section of Lashly & Baer. [Stephen G. Reuter](#) and [Stephen L. Beimdiek](#) both achieved winning results in the St. Louis City Circuit Court for their clients, SLUCare and US Bancorp.

In a medical malpractice case, Mr. Reuter won a jury verdict in favor of SLUCare. The patient's family alleged that a doctor at the Saint Louis University Liver Transplant Center should have evaluated the patient for a liver transplant sooner. The patient was referred to St. Louis for liver transplant evaluation by a physician in Arkansas. The SLUCare Hepatologist diagnosed autoimmune hepatitis, an element of the patient's liver disease which had not been worked-up before referral. He attempted treatment of this, but the patient failed to follow doctor's directives. Her liver disease progressed and ultimately the doctor did determine she would need a liver transplant. However, due to Medicaid rules, the evaluation and transplant surgery would have to take place in Arkansas, where the patient lived. The woman died six weeks after the transplant evaluation began in Arkansas. Mr. Reuter and his experts took the position that the diagnosis of autoimmune hepatitis was correct and that the treatment, when taken, was working. The patient's non-compliance prevented further improvement and postponement, for years, the need for transplant. The defense also questioned why the Arkansas Liver Transplant Center did not complete the evaluation in the six weeks following their initial meeting with the patient. Experts testified at the trial that a transplant evaluation could be completed within one to two weeks. The jury deliberated for 53 minutes before returning their verdict. (*Stephanie Daniels et al v. Saint Louis University*)

A jury also found in favor of Stephen L. Beimdiek's client, US Bancorp, in a "slip and fall" civil suit. The plaintiff, an 81-year old man, said he slipped and fell on a patch of ice outside a US Bank facility in St. Louis while waiting for the bank to open. Mr. Beimdiek argued that the bank's premises had been treated for snow and ice removal and the plaintiff fell because he failed to take ordinary care. After deliberating for 45 minutes, the jury at the Saint Louis City Circuit Court agreed in favor of US Bancorp, finding the plaintiff 100 percent at fault. (*Gerald Meyer v. US Bancorp*)