

TYPE OF ACTION: Medical Malpractice, Wrongful Death, Pulmonary Embolism

ACTION: Goe, Personal Representative of the Estate of Goe v. Loe, M.D.

COURT: Case before the Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria

AMOUNT OF SETTLEMENT: \$900,000.00

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: William E. Artz, Arlington, Virginia

CASE SUMMARY:

Goe was a 37 year old anesthesiologist, married with three minor children. In March of 1990, he flew to Dallas, Texas to sit for his Anesthesia Boards. While there, his leg began to swell, which he attributed to jogging. Following his return to the Alexandria, Virginia area and some shortness of breath symptoms, he was evaluated by his internist and referred for a ventilation perfusion scan which diagnosed pulmonary embolism. Goe was immediately hospitalized and started on heparin. His PTT values were infrequently taken and over the ensuing 42 hours following admission to the hospital he was subtherapeutic. The patient re-embolized following increasing chest discomfort which was diagnosed as muscular. The patient arrested, a code was called, embolectomy surgery was performed, but the patient was allowed to expire following severe hypoxic brain damage.

The primary defendant was an internist with limited experience in managing pulmonary embolism and the critical time frame was over a weekend. As expected, the decedent had extensive earning capacity.