



# Philanthropist prevails in multi-million dollar lawsuit

Lisa Roose-Church, Livingston Daily 12:36 p.m. EDT June 29, 2015



(Photo: Submitted photo)

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A jury found a Macomb County businessman and philanthropist breached a contract with an attorney who negotiated a business deal to sell his interests in three Texas-based companies.

However, the Livingston County civil jury unanimously agreed that Wayne Webber, president of Webber General Properties Inc., owed the attorney zero dollars in damages.

"We are extremely pleased with the result of this trial in favor of Mr. Webber," Rodger Young, founder of Farmington Hills-based firm Young & Associates, said. "This is a case in which our team was able to illustrate a very clear picture of the dispute and to prove that our client had behaved in a fair and entirely justified manner."

Brighton attorney Kenneth Burchfield, who represented the plaintiff, Michael J. Biber, along with I.W. Winston of Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn said they would not comment on the verdict as their client is still considering his options. Burchfield, of Burchfield, Park & Pollesch, declined to say what options Biber is considering.

The dispute initially arose following a 2005 business deal in which Biber represented Webber in the sale of his interest in three Texas businesses: Southern Crushed Concrete, W.W. Webber Inc., and Webber Management Group.

Webber was a heavy construction contractor specializing in roads, highways, bridges and airport runways. Southern Crushed Concrete was a supplier of recycled construction components and the management group owned a fleet of construction vehicles used by Webber.

According to court documents, the businesses sold for \$220 million, which exceeded projections by more than 200 percent.

Biber alleged that in addition to the compensation originally agreed upon in his contract, he was owed a 1 percent performance bonus plus costs, which amounted to \$2.5 million, according to court documents.

The jury found that Webber breached the contract with Biber, but they awarded no damages.

"We believe the jury found Mr. Webber a very credible witness and believed as the evidence showed that Mr. Biber had been fully compensated for the work he did," Webber's co-counsel, Jaye Quadrozzi, said.

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