



## **\$2.7M Settlement For Wrongful Discharge, Shareholder Oppression**

*Employment Severed; Bonuses  
Paid To Other Co. Members*

Prior to September 1999, the plaintiff owned 25 percent of the stock of Causley Pontiac-GMC, and was also employed there. In September 1999, his employment with the company was severed. Thereafter, the company refused to pay dividends to the plaintiff and, instead, began paying shareholders' bonuses which the plaintiff contended were disguised dividends.

The plaintiff claimed, among other theories, minority shareholder oppression for which he sought payment for the fair value of his stock.

**Type of action:** Shareholder oppression; wrongful discharge

**Type of injuries:** Fair value of stock; lost wages

**Name of case:** Causley v. Jim Causley, Inc., d/b/a Causley Pontiac-GMC, et al.

**Court/case no./date:** Macomb County Circuit Court, #00-3924-CB, Oct. 5, 2001

**Name of judge:** Mark Switalski

**Jury demand:** Yes

**Settlement amount:** \$2.7 million

**Attorneys for the plaintiff:** Gerard Mantese and Marc L. Newman

**Attorney for the defendant:** Withheld

**Name/city of most helpful experts:** Jeff Risius and Thomas Frazee, Stout Risius and Ross, Inc., Southfield

**Insurance carrier:** N/A