

Donald Rafferty of Cohen, Todd, Kite & Stanford in Cincinnati, an attorney for Chesley's former firm, Waite, Schneider, Bayless & Chesley-which is no longer practicing and in winddown mode-and Thomas Rehme, the Cincinnati attorney in charge of Chesley's assets, did not respond to a request for comment.

Angela Ford of Ford Law PSC in Lexington, Kentucky, who represents Chesley's former clients, said in an emailed statement: "The Sixth Circuit wrote with impressive clarity, and I'm hoping the speed with which the court acted will create a sense of urgency in the district court. After nearly 14 years, it's about time for the machinations to end."

Chesley was a prominent plaintiffs attorney in the mass tort bar. In addition to fen-phen, he got a \$200 million settlement in 1983 for Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange; a \$3.2 billion settlement with Dow Corning in 1998 for women claiming diseases caused by silicone breast implants; and a \$2.7 billion settlement in 2003 with the government of Libya for families of victims of Pan Am Flight 103, destroyed by a bomb over Scotland.

In the case over fen-phen—a combination of the appetite-suppressing drugs fenfluramine and phentermine-his clients, who were supposed to get about \$134 million from the settlement, received \$74 million instead, says the Sixth Circuit's opinion. The rest went to their lawyers, including Chesley, who ended up with about more than \$20 million, according to his 2013 disbarment proceeding in Kentucky.

FROM THE COURTS

The lawyers, at least for the time being, made out like bandits," according to the opinion.

But former clients suing over the missing funds won the \$42 million judgment. And two of Chesley's co-counsel, Shirley Cunningham Jr. and William Gallion, got prison sentences in 2009 of 20 and 25 years, respectively.

In 2013, the Kentucky Supreme Court disbarred Chesley, who subsequently retired from practicing law in Ohio. It was then that Chesley set up a "wind-up agreement" with Rehme as part of the dissolution of his law firm: "Ostensibly, the agreement's purpose was to help wind up WSBC's business en route to dissolving the firm," the opinion says. "It also served as a vessel through which Chesley could move his assets.

Before U.S. District Judge Robert Cleland of the Southern District of Ohio issued his injunction in the federal fraudulent conveyances suit, Rehme transferred the assets in 2016 to a newly formed trust, which moved them to a third party "for the purpose of instituting an assignment for the benefit of creditors action" in Ohio probate court.

In their appeal, Chesley's former firm and Rehme argued that the transfers were for legitimate purposes, particularly since Chesley could no longer practice law, and that Cleland had violated the Anti-Injunction Act by issuing his order against an Ohio state court. After the Ohio Supreme Court ruling, however, the Sixth Circuit asked both sides to provide supplemental briefs on its impact.

Chesley's former firm and Rehme argued that the decision mooted the injunction's purpose, but the former clients said it only reaffirmed Cleland's reasons for imposing the order in the first place.

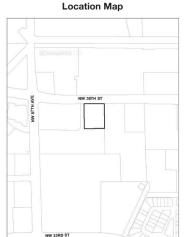
The Sixth Circuit agreed with the plaintiffs, calling the Ohio Supreme Court's decision "strong evidence of Chesley's pattern of fraudulent behavior." The panel also noted evidence that Rehme wrote Chesley \$5.4 million worth of checks for things like personal legal bills and household expenses and that the timing of the asset transfer "bolsters the suspicion that it was an attempt to evade the plaintiffs.

In a footnote, the panel noted other "red flags," such as Chesley's former firm selling 33 cars insured for more than \$5 million to his wife, U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott of the Southern District of Ohio, for \$543,000, then buying them back for the same price, and a \$1 million check in 2014 to "Cory Kumler," who turned out to be his wife. "These transactions are curious, as there appears to have been no exchange of economic benefit," the footnote says.

Moreover, Chesley's actions have gone on for two decades, according to the panel.

There is a fundamental public interest in ending such abuse of the judicial system, in conserving judicial resources, and in preventing further confusion and disruption in this litigation," the panel wrote.

Amanda Bronstad is the ALM staff reporter covering class actions and mass torts nationwide. She writes the email dispatch Critical Mass. She is based in Los Angeles.



Information relating the subject application is on file and may be examined in the City of Doral, Planning and Zoning Department Located at **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL. 33166**. All persons are invited to appear at this meeting or be represented by an agent, or to express their views in writing addressed to the City Clerk, **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL. 33166**. Maps and other data pertaining to these applications are available for public inspection during normal business hours in City Hall. Any persons wishing to speak at a public hearing should register with the City Clerk prior to that item being heard. Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) husiness (as point to the proceeding). later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

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Connie Diaz, CMC City Clerk City of Doral 6/5

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