



MISSOURI

Roundup trial: Jury sides with Bayer and Monsanto in herbicide lawsuit

FILE – In this June 28, 2011, file photo, bottles of Roundup herbicide, a product of Monsanto, are displayed on a store shelf in St. Louis. (AP Photo/Jeff...

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by: [Kevin S. Held](#)

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CLAYTON, Mo. – A St. Louis County jury has determined Bayer and the former Monsanto should not be held liable in a lawsuit over the weed killer product Roundup.

Three plaintiffs in their 60s and 70s had claimed long-time exposure to Roundup—specifically the chemical glyphosate—gave them [lymphoma](#) and that Monsanto neglected to warn the public of its dangers. Monsanto said Roundup does not cause cancer.

The trial began on Aug. 3 at St. Louis County Court.

Monsanto developed and patented glyphosate in 1970. It began selling the product in 1974 under the name Roundup.

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Bayer released the following statement Thursday after the jury's ruling:

The jury's verdict in favor of the company brings this trial to a successful conclusion and is consistent with the evidence in this multi-plaintiff case that Roundup™ was not responsible for the injuries alleged by the plaintiffs.

The jury's conclusions are consistent with the assessments of expert regulators worldwide as well as the overwhelming evidence from four decades of scientific studies concluding that Roundup™ can be used safely and is not carcinogenic.

The company won the four preceding Roundup™ trials, including Clark, Stephens, Shelton, and Johnson cases and, with the victory in Alesi, has prevailed in five consecutive trials.

While we have great sympathy for the plaintiffs in this case, the jury has weighed the evidence from both sides in this case and concluded that Roundup™ is not responsible for their injuries.

We continue to stand behind the safety of Roundup™ and will confidently defend the safety of our product as well as our good faith actions in any future litigation.

- BAYER

There remains some scientific debate over glyphosate as a cancer-causing agent. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in 2015 identified glyphosate as a possible carcinogen. However, a WHO and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) joint committee on pesticides announced in 2016

that glyphosate did not pose a significant health risk to humans. The Environmental Protection Agency considers glyphosate as noncarcinogenic.

In 2015, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) identified glyphosate, the world's most commonly used herbicide, as a probable human carcinogen. ¹² It quickly became evident that separating science from politics and economic interests would be difficult for glyphosate.

According to [Courtroom View Network](#), Monsanto had attempted to bar digital news media from the courtroom. However, St. Louis County Circuit Judge Brian May denied the company's request.

Attorneys for local firm Carey Danis & Lowe represented the plaintiffs, along with Texas-based firm Fears Nachawati PLLC.

Monsanto was represented in court by Husch Blackwell LLP of Kansas City, as well as Covington & Burling LLP's New York City and Washington D.C. offices, and Proskauer Rose LLP's Los Angeles office.

Other Roundup trials are scheduled in the St. Louis area through next year.

Monsanto was founded in St. Louis in 1901 and named for founder John Francis Queeny's wife's maiden name. The company initially manufactured food additives before expanding to industrial chemicals. Over the next several decades, Monsanto would produce the insecticide DDT, the infamous herbicide Agent Orange, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), bovine growth hormone, and genetically engineered crop seeds.

Monsanto stopped producing PCBs in 1977 amid concerns of contamination of land and water sources. The company's Sauget plant along Dead Creek had been the country's biggest producer of PCBs in the years prior. That plant was eventually [designated a Superfund site](#) by the Environmental Protection Agency. Congress banned the production of PCBs in 1979.

In 1984, Monsanto settled a class-action lawsuit by Vietnam veterans for injuries suffered due to Agent Orange exposure.

Monsanto moved its headquarters from Downtown St. Louis to Creve Coeur in 1957 and launched its agricultural division in 1961.

Bayer acquired Monsanto in 2016 for \$66 billion.

In June 2020, [Bayer agreed to pay \\$10.9 billion](#) to settle approximately three-quarters of existing Roundup claims against its subsidiary—both filed and unfiled claims—at the time.

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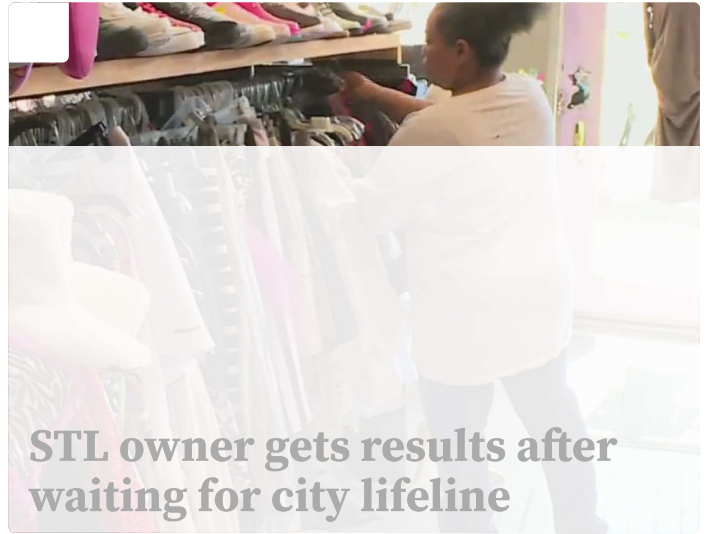
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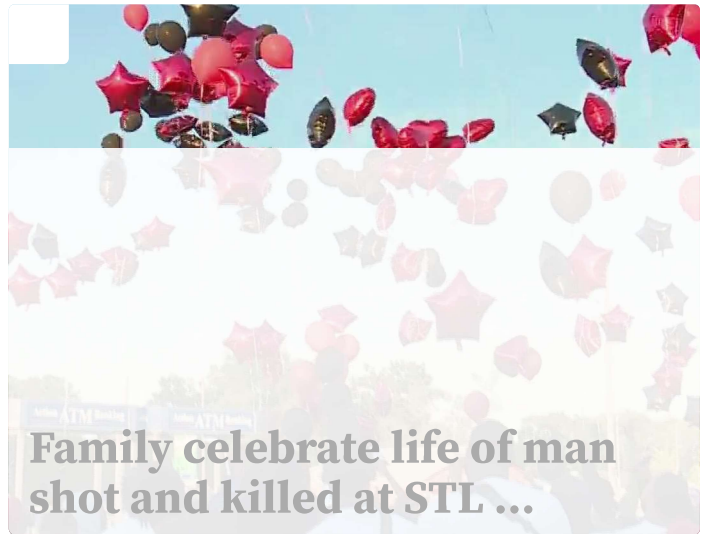
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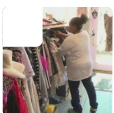
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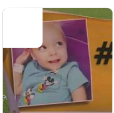
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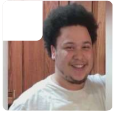
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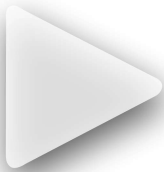


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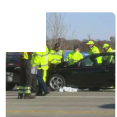
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