

# Chicago Daily Law Bulletin®

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## In the News

### In circuit court

The family of a 9-year-old girl who died in gym class a month after a heart operation has received a \$4.9 million settlement from a doctor, his professional corporation and a hospital, according to the plaintiff's attorney.

Kelly Hanlon was born with Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome, which caused her to have cardiac arrhythmias. Rather than remain on medications for the rest of her life, she was treated by Dr. Marc Ovadia at Advocate Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn.

Hanlon underwent a cardiac ablation procedure in April 2002, and four weeks later, Ovadia said Hanlon could resume sports and other activities. The next day, she collapsed in gym class and later died.

The Cook County medical examiner's office said that Hanlon died as a result of a hole in the heart caused by the procedure. The defense said that the surgical technique was proper, and there had not been a fatality in more than 3,000 cases.

Cook County Circuit Judge **Deborah M. Dooling** approved the settlement on Wednesday. The family was represented by **Mark E. McNabola** and **Adria East Mossing** of Cogan & McNabola P.C.

Ovadia was represented by **Robert W. Smyth Jr.** of Donohue, Brown, Mathewson & Smyth LLC.

**Edward H. Nielsen** of Pretzel & Stouffer represented Ovadia's professional corporation, Midwest Pediatric Cardiology.

**Patricia J. Barker** of Barker & Castro represented the hospital. The hospital will pay \$3.4 million, and the doctor and his professional corporation will pay \$1.5 million.

*Bobbi Hanlon v. Marc Ovadia M.D., et al.*, No. 03 L 4933.