

The New York Times

Years After Monsanto Deal, Bayer's Roundup Bills Keep Piling Up



Thomas R. Kline and Jason Itkin, the lawyers who secured a \$175 million jury verdict against Monsanto, in Mr. Kline's apartment in Manhattan, in November. Maansi Srivastava/The New York Times

In one of the four cases, a jury awarded the plaintiff \$175 million in damages. **Tom Kline**, one of the plaintiffs' lawyers, said that documents and testimony showing that Monsanto, over 50 years, developed a product it knew was dangerous, helped convince the jury.

"They needed to admit what a responsible chemical company would do," said Mr. Kline, a partner at Kline & Specter who represented the plaintiff along with his co-counsel Jason Itkin from Arnold & Itkin. "We proved through the facts that they did the opposite over a long period of time."

The two lawyers are well known for winning substantial verdicts or settlements against big companies, including Merck and the energy company Motiva. In 2019, Mr. Kline and Mr. Itkin won an \$8 billion jury verdict against Johnson & Johnson for a man who alleged that its drug Risperdal caused men to grow breasts. The amount was later reduced, but the company eventually settled with numerous plaintiffs for roughly \$1 billion.

Mr. Kline and Mr. Itkin's next Roundup case is scheduled to start trial in early January in Philadelphia.