

ASBESTOS VICTIMS BATTLE FOR COMPENSATION AT COURT OF APPEAL

Royal Courts of Justice, November 9-27

The financial future of hundreds of workers suffering from Mesothelioma hangs in the balance as the Court of Appeal next week prepares to hear attempts by insurers to avoid paying compensation.

The judges will hear the insurers' appeal against the decision of the High Court Judge, Mr Justice Burton, who last year ruled that insurers should pay compensation to the victims of Mesothelioma and their families. [For copies of previous articles on this case click [here](#)].

Last year's nine-week court battle – a test case -- preserved the workers' right to compensation after insurance companies had argued that the policies sold to employers did not cover their workers exposed to asbestos.

The insurance companies appealed against the ruling and if they are successful in overturning the decision in the coming weeks, the workers and their families will find their compensation claims blocked.

Clitheroe widow, Joan Eddleston, lost her husband Arthur to Mesothelioma. Despite winning her case for compensation, the Insurers refused to pay up, leaving Joan financially insecure in her retirement.

She said, “Insurance companies took money from companies and promised to cover their employees if they were injured at work. I am saddened by yet another attempt by some insurance companies to avoid responsibility, despite having pocketed tens of thousands of pounds in premiums.”

Carolann Hepworth a partner at specialist law firm John Pickering and Partners LLP said, “The financial future is hanging in the balance for hundreds of mesothelioma victims and their families who could face the anguish of being unable to pay for care or provide financial security for their families.

The Court of Appeal has fixed three weeks in November to hear the insurers’ appeal.

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