

Of local interest

Jury awards couple \$715,000

A Mobile County Circuit Court jury awarded \$715,000 to a local couple who sued a financial company for fraud.

The jury reached its verdict after a three-day trial before Mobile County District Judge Lionel Layden.

The judgment was against Associates Financial Services Co. of Alabama Inc. and in favor of Oliver Barbour and his wife, Ethel.

Attorney Richard Bounds, who represented the Barbours with attorney David Broome, said the company gave the Barbours a "worthless" deed.

Bounds said the company foreclosed on a piece of property it had lent money on and wanted the Barbours to buy the property, but the couple was unable to because they did not qualify.

The attorney said the financial company then sold the property to a Realtor, who in turn sold the property to the Barbours. When the Realtor failed to make the mortgage payments, Bounds said, the financial company told the Barbours they could assume the mortgage.

Bounds said that when the financial company sold to the Realtor, the company did not give him a deed and they continued to hold the title to the property. He said although the Barbours made timely payments, the company did not give them a proper deed.

He said that during the trial the financial company tendered a deed to the Barbours.