

## **Man gets \$750,000 for barge accident**

A Mobile County Circuit Court jury awarded \$750,000 Thursday to a man injured while working on a barge.

The jury found for William Marvin Miller and against Coastal Tug & Barge Inc. of Miami, Fla., in connection with the Nov. 4, 1989, accident. The four-day trial was presided over by Judge Robert Kendall.

Robert "Bobo" Cunningham Jr., Miller's attorney, said Miller was working for Sipco Marine Services performing maintenance work on a barge owned by Coastal when the incident happened. Cunningham and Greg Breedlove represented Miller.

Cunningham said Miller was climbing from one deck to another when a lifeline he was holding onto broke, causing him to fall 50 feet to the ground. Cunningham said his client sustained severe injuries, including a broken face, broken back, broken wrists and a broken foot.

"We alleged the lifeline was not maintained in a safe condition and had been allowed to deteriorate, due to rust," said Cunningham.

He said the defense contended Miller was negligent because he climbed up the side of the vessel using the lifeline as a handhold and was not using a safety belt.

Cunningham said the jury found there was no contributory negligence on Miller's part.