

# Appeals Court Maintains Groundskeepers Win Against Monsanto

California Appeals Court rejected Monsanto's effort to overturn a trial victory by California school groundskeeper, Dewayne Johnson, who developed cancer after continual use of Monsanto's product Round-Up. Glyphosate, among other ingredients in Round-Up, is known to cause non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Image: BENOIT TESSIER / REUTERS

Johnson is entitled to \$10.25 million in compensatory damages and another \$10.25 million in punitive damages. The appeals court stated that Johnson was entitled to punitive damages because Monsanto acted with "willful and conscious disregard of others safety" Johnson's lawyers presented the courts with internal emails and other records clearly showing Monsanto scientists discussing ghostwriting scientific papers to support the safety of Monsanto's products as well as plans to discredit critics.

Documents also showed plans to suppress the government's evaluation of the toxicity of glyphosate. Monsanto anticipated that the International Agency for Research on Cancer would classify glyphosate as a probable or possible human carcinogen.

## **Related: *How To Heal Your Gut***

Tens's of thousands of plaintiffs have filed lawsuits against Monsanto, with 2 trials taking place after Johnson's, both resulting in verdicts against Monsanto. Bayer, which finalized purchased of Monsanto in 2018, stands behind the safety of Round-up.

*The appeal court's decision to reduce the compensatory and punitive damages is a step in the right direction, but we continue to believe that the jury's verdict and damage awards are inconsistent with the evidence at trial and the law. Monsanto will consider its legal options, including filing an appeal with the Supreme Court of California.*

*Appeals Court Upholds Groundskeeper's Roundup Cancer Trial Win over Monsanto*