

# Jury Finds Racial Bias at Caulkins Indiantown Citrus Company

After twelve years of pre-trial proceedings and six weeks of trial, a Federal jury found in favor of hundreds of African-American workers on race discrimination claims against Caulkins Indiantown Citrus Company and various company executives. Caulkins, one of the largest groves and juice producers in the state, subsequently agreed to pay \$13.5 million in damages to the class action plaintiffs.

Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A. lawyers, Moses Baker and Jack Scarola, served as lead trial counsel throughout the case, working closely with referring lawyers Jeffrey Pheterson, Joseph Vassallo and Peter Helwig, Director of Florida Rural Legal Services. The joint effort, primarily financed by the firm, cost over one million dollars to prosecute.

Further details concerning the law suit and the settlement will appear in the next issue of this newsletter. ■