

Jury awards couple \$10.6 million in bank case

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A Jefferson Circuit Court jury this week found Branch Banking & Trust, or BB&T, liable for fraud and awarded a Louisville couple \$10.6 million in damages.

Monday's verdict included \$9 million in punitive damages against the bank, finding that BB&T acted maliciously.

Jurors found that Bank of Louisville, which was later acquired by BB&T, used false information in 2002 to persuade Larry and Linda Thompson to consolidate numerous bank loans they had for their real-estate business to one mortgage with Bank of Louisville.

The Thompsons claimed that BB&T committed fraud by inducing them into a lending relationship through false representations and then destroyed their business by refusing to allow them to buy real estate, which had been part of their business for the past two decades, said Larry Zielke, the attorney for the Thompsons.

For more information about lending litigation, contact: Mark Bonner, Attorney at Law, 127 N.W. 10th, Oklahoma City, OK 73103, (405) 272-0200.

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