

# Do you need post-judgment financing?

Many plaintiffs believe once they obtain a judgment, they'll soon be paid out. Unfortunately too often that's not the case. Appeals and collections proceedings are expensive, time-consuming and risky. Reach out to Legalist for funding to tide you through the process.

#### Appellate procedures delay payment

Appeals proceedings typically take ~1.5-2.5 years to resolve. Once an appeal is over, the defendant may appeal again to a higher court which results in further delays. Appellate proceedings can drag a case out for many years. One case took over 8 years to reach a \$121M verdict due to appellate and supreme court proceedings.

## Judgments can be overturned

An appeal allows a defendant a "second attempt" to extinguish the lawsuit. In 2015, <u>14.2% of all private civil judgments</u> at the federal level were overturned. Many judgments are overturned on appeal, such as this <u>\$102M judgment</u> against Walmart, this <u>\$6.6M personal injury judgment</u>, and this <u>\$5M judgment</u> for legal malpractice.

#### Judgments can be reduced

If a judge believes a judgment is too harsh, the judge may reduce the judgment. Judgments can also be reduced through the appeals process. Examples include <u>this judgment reduced by 95.7%</u>, <u>this judgment reduced by 53%</u> and <u>this judgment reduced by 97.2%</u>.

#### New trials can be granted

Where a new trial is granted, the entire case may be heard "de novo", which can lead to significant delays and the possibility of a complete loss. In a lawsuit against J&J, the case was remanded for retrial after a <u>\$48.1M</u> <u>verdict</u>. Similarly, a <u>\$10M judgment</u> against RJ Reynolds was remanded for a new trial.

### Defendants can avoid collections

When a defendant is unwilling to pay what's owed, plaintiffs may have to settle for pennies on the dollar, and may receive no compensation at all. A defendant may have no money or may be good at hiding their money. They can file for bankruptcy or move their money overseas. Collecting on what you're owed is a huge challenge and results in <u>5 million collections lawsuits</u> in the US every year.

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