

From *The Recorder*, July 24, 1997

**Leeson v. Steuart Street Venture**

Plaintiffs Peter and Grace Leeson were represented by Randy Erlewine.

Two patrons of Harry Denton's Bar & Grill have won a \$2.1 million dollar verdict against business associates of Denton in the wake of a skirmish at the Financial District watering hole.

According to Erlewine, the Leesons claimed that following a New Year's Eve party at the restaurant several years ago, Denton threw a glass of water at Grace Leeson, sparking a confrontation that culminated with Peter Leeson's beating at the hands of six security guards employed by The Kimpton Group, a partner in the establishment.

In *Leeson v. Steuart Street Venture*, 964778, the Leesons sued Denton, The Kimpton Revocable Trust and others involved in the restaurant.

On July 14, a San Francisco Superior Court jury found for the Leesons on their claims of battery, negligence and negligent infliction of emotional distress. The panel awarded compensatory damages of \$36,500 to Grace Leeson and \$1.9 million to Peter Leeson, though his award was reduced 15 percent for his own contributory negligence. Four days later, the jury awarded Grace Leeson \$141,000 in punitive damages.

-Josh Norem