



Hosp settles in death of DUMBO dealmaker

EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID HAFETZ

The family of a Manhattan developer — the longtime business partner of real estate mogul David Walentas — has settled a \$25 million lawsuit accusing New York-Presbyterian Hospital of malpractice, including an alleged accidental poisoning.

The family of Stan Dinstein charged that hospital staff repeatedly bungled his treatment at its East 68th Street campus before his death on Dec. 23, 1998.

Dinstein, 50, arrived in the emergency room complaining of abdominal pain. He was placed on a floor with AIDS patients instead of in a surgery area and then got lost in the system, according to the Dinstein's lawyer, Mark Bodner, who spoke before the case was settled last week.

Later, Bodner said, a doctor allegedly gave Dinstein an undiluted dose of potassium chloride — the chemical used in some state executions. The substance is usually used in diluted form by doctors to treat potassium deficiency but is responsible for some accidental deaths at hospitals.

Dinstein went into cardiac arrest. His family said the hospital responded to the heart attack but failed to notice his ongoing internal abdominal bleeding, which they claimed caused his death.

"It was just ugly. Hospitals and doctors killed him," said Walentas, who was partners with Dinstein for 20 years.

The hospital denied the charges and the Dinstein's allegations were never aired in court. The case settled for an undisclosed amount on Wednesday, just minutes before opening statements in state Supreme Court in Manhattan.

New York-Presbyterian



William Farnington

TRAGIC TYCOON: Stan Dinstein (right), with real-estate partner David Walentas, helped turn a long-neglected Brooklyn area (below) into hip, pricey DUMBO. He died in '98 after accidental "poisoning" at New York-Presbyterian.



and lawyers on both sides declined comment after the settlement. The Dinstein family would not comment.

In court records, Dinstein's family claimed \$25 million in lost wages and compensation.

Dinstein, a certified pub-

lic accountant who grew up in Queens, worked with Walentas in the years leading up to the conversion of the area of Brooklyn known as DUMBO. Walentas' Two Trees Management created and owned much of DUMBO, which stands for "Down Under

the Manhattan Bridge Overpass."

"Stan was the best. He was tough. He was smart. He lived to have fun," said Walentas, nicknamed the "Duke of DUMBO." Dinstein used to handle the financial side of their business.

According to court records, Dinstein's medical troubles began with a car accident on Long Island in 1995. He had multiple abdominal surgeries including a hernia repair in 1996 at Lenox Hill Hospital.

Dinstein later sued Lenox Hill and several doctors over that operation. He claimed a surgeon accidentally cut his bowel, allegedly causing fecal matter to leak into his system and almost killing him, court records state.

The bowel injury allegedly also left Dinstein with abdominal complications that led him to New York-Presbyterian in 1998.

Dinstein's Lenox Hill lawsuit settled in December for \$750,000, court records state.

"Between Lenox Hill and New York-Presbyterian, they killed him," Walentas said.