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E. Powell Miller

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By **Chad Halcom**



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E. Powell Miller makes a fairly perennial appearance in tallies of top verdicts and court settlements in the region, but recently his firm has gained visibility representing former **Compuware Corp.** Chairman and CEO Peter Karmanos Jr. in various matters.

Miller represented Karmanos in arbitration with Compuware, in which arbitrator Gene Esshaki ruled in early 2015 that the Detroit company Karmanos co-founded in 1973 owed him \$16.5 million for his claim the company terminated him without cause and canceled his stock options. Compuware has taken that case to the **Michigan Court of Appeals.**

"While you take some pride in reaching a good settlement, it often takes something more to deliver the goods in a trial setting, and to convince the fact finder of your case," Miller said. "Which was good to do, because I think the world of Pete Karmanos, and every penny that

he got he deserved."

Karmanos alleged Compuware terminated his consultant contract without cause in 2013 and canceled his stock options after Karmanos made public statements criticizing the management's handling of a takeover bid at the time by **Elliott Management Corp.** of New York.

Miller's firm is also handling Karmanos' separate 2015 lawsuit against Compuware and **Thoma Bravo LLC**, alleging fraud in the Chicago private equity firm's \$2.4 billion acquisition, as well as defending Karmanos in a May lawsuit by his three sons, alleging he's in default and owes more than \$105.6 million on a 2013 loan through a stock partnership.

The defense is seeking to dismiss that case, which awaits an Aug. 24 conference before Oakland County Circuit Judge Wendy Potts.

Miller was also co-counsel for a class of more than 20,000 registered nurses who provided direct patient care in acute-care hospitals from late 2002 to late 2006. The nurse class settled with **Detroit Medical Center** in September for \$42 million, weeks before beginning a trial on allegations the hospitals had conspired to keep wages in the region artificially low.

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