

## Woman wins HIV lawsuit

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kept in touch with a few people in the lab, including Sanders. She said she did not know the results of Walls' HIV test, let alone discuss them with Sanders, until after Walls sued.

Bailey had originally been named a defendant in the suit, but Jefferson Circuit Judge Ellen Ewing dismissed her from it.

Thurman testified that she had not talked to her sister, Bailey or anyone in the lab at Jewish Hospital about Walls' test results.

But Walls had once confronted Thurman about what happened and tape-recorded that conversation. On the tape, which was played at the trial, Thurman says someone in the lab had noticed the address, and that's how the disclosure got started.

Alex Rose, the hospital's attorney, argued that it couldn't have happened the way Walls claimed for at least two reasons: Sanders said she didn't tell anyone, and she knew that if she did she would probably get fired.

Under state law, no one who knows the result of an HIV test can disclose it, except to the patient, medical professionals and government health officials who need the information. Hospital officials testified that all employees are repeatedly reminded of the rules on patient confidentiality and are told they can be fired for disclosing any medical information.

Dr. John Oldfather, a vice president of Jewish, testified that lab employees aren't given a patient's address; they're given the patient's name.

But McMurry argued that Sanders could have seen Walls' address somewhere else — in the computer, for example.

"Vermont Avenue: That's what this was all about," McMurry said.

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