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Big Deals, Big Suits

Deal of the Week:

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP: Wine World v. Beverage Source

By [Lauren Gard](#)

After more than six years of litigation and a six-week trial, a Sonoma County jury returned a \$1.1 million verdict in favor of Wine World Estates Co., a former Nestle USA subsidiary, against Heublein Inc., an international wine and beverage conglomerate headquartered in Connecticut.

Partner Andrew August of San Francisco's Bayer & August represented Nestle throughout the entire lawsuit, *Wine World Estates Co. v. The Beverage Source*, SCR 206288. "I've been practicing law for 17 years and spent six and a half of it on this case," said August, who was assisted by partner Timothy Flaherty at the trial.

The suit sought the cleanup costs paid by Nestle in remediating diesel contamination in the soil and groundwater at the Asti Winery near Cloverdale, on the banks of the Russian River. Nestle proved that Heublein committed a trespass and nuisance by contaminating the property during its 60 years of ownership and operation of the Winery. The Winery, which is the historical Italian Swiss Colony winery established in 1880, is currently owned by Beringer Wine Estates Co. of St. Helena and Napa.

Andrew Schneider and Curtis Ogilvie of San Francisco's Jedeikin, Meadows & Schneider represented Heublein.