

## **\$229,500 awarded in ex-inmate's death**

**BY ALICIA FABBRE**

*Daily Herald Staff Writer*

Although Ethel Hare suffered from her own health problems, a Kane County jury found that she wasn't the only one to blame for her death.

Jurors Thursday awarded Hare's family members \$229,500, saying the medical service provider at the Kane County Jail was partly to blame for the Elgin woman's death in 1997.

"I think justice has finally prevailed for my sister," said Dianne Simon, of Elgin. "We're glad it's finally over with and just thankful that the people saw that there was a problem and did justice.

Jurors deliberated for 9 ½ hours before returning their verdict in the two-week long trial.

Jurors originally awarded \$450,000 but cut the amount noting that Hare – who had chronic liver disease and was HIV positive – was 49 percent responsible for her death.

In their lawsuit, family members allege that Correctional Medical Services and one of its nurses ignored signs that Hare's liver disease was worsening. Hare, who suffered internal bleeding, died at Delnor-Community Hospital in Geneva on March 24, 1997 – two days after she was found comatose in her jail cell.

Attorney Susan Clancy Boles argued that Hare requested medical attention five times during the 30-hour period before she was found in her jail cell. At one point, Hare reported to a nurse that she had vomited and that it contained blood – a sign that Boles said should have alerted nurses that Hare was bleeding internally.

"One of the dangers of liver disease is that you will bleed," Boles said. "She was slowly dying before their eyes and they didn't do anything."

The original lawsuit sought to include jail officials as defendants. However, a judge struck that request.

An attorney for Correctional Medical Services could not be reached for comment. Correctional Medical Services provided the medical services at the jail at the time of Hare's death.

Kane County jail officials switched to a different provider two years ago, noting that Correctional Medical Services did not properly fill out bid forms for the job.

Simon said she plans to donate a portion of the settlement in her sister's memory to a clinic that helps those who are HIV positive.