

CIVIL RIGHTS

CHICAGO BASED CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY NENYE E. UCHE SECURES A JURY VERDICT OF \$1.18 MILLION FOR THE FAMILY OF A YOUNG MAN UNJUSTLY SHOT AND KILLED BY CHICAGO POLICE.

For further information about this, please contact the following attorney:

Nenye E. Uche
Managing Attorney
UCHE P.C.
314 N. Loomis St.
Suite G2
Chicago, IL 60607
P: 312.380.5341
F: 312.854.8001
Toll Free: 888.251.4428

CHICAGO, IL.,

December, 2018 —

On December 13, 2018 after a two-week jury trial, a Cook County Jury returned a verdict of \$1.18 Million in a wrongful death case involving an unjustified police shooting. The trial was heard in front of the Honorable Judge John P. Callahan in Chicago.

Attorney Uche tried the case with [Attorney Shay T. Allen](#), [Attorney Tamara A. Walker](#) and [Attorney Heather A. Widell](#).

The case, *The Estate of Cockerham v. Anthony Babicz and the City of Chicago* centered around a shooting that had occurred

on 71st and Merrill St in Chicago. Chicago Police officer Anthony Babicz shot and killed Alfontish Cockerham at around 12am on June 20, 2015 following a foot pursuit.

Initially, the Chicago Police Department claimed that the shooting was justified because Mr. Cockerham had faced the officer and pointed a gun at the officer. However, autopsy reports showed that the entry wounds of the gunshots were in Mr. Cockerham's back. After the autopsy revelation, the Chicago Police then claimed that the shooting was justified because Mr. Cockerham had been turning to face the officer with a gun while running

away from the officer with his back still turned to the officer.

During trial the defense argued that the officer had a split-second decision to make and should not have given Cockerham an opportunity to shoot. The defense called in forensic experts as well as a police-use-of-force expert and a shooting scene reconstruction expert to make their case.

However, during trial, the Plaintiff's team emphasized the major inconsistencies in the police officer's explanation of the shooting. The Plaintiff's team also used video surveillance as well as

forensic evidence to demonstrate that Mr. Cockerham was never turning and never turned toward the police officer with a gun. The Plaintiff's team argued that even if Mr. Cockerham had a gun, he had deescalated his confrontation with the police officer by running away. During closing arguments, Attorney Uche reminded the jury that a police officer is not a judge, jury or executioner.

After about 3 hours of deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of \$1.18 Million for the wrongful death of Alfontish Cockerham.



The jury also declared in a special interrogatory that the shooting was unjustified and that the officer's conduct was willful and wanton.

Attorney Neny E. Uche is a former Chicago prosecutor who received his legal education from the University of Wisconsin Law School. As an Assistant State Attorney, he prosecuted more than one thousand criminal cases and developed a comprehensive understanding of the criminal justice system. He is a member of the Illinois Bar, as well as the federal trial bar for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Uche's

extensive experience as a trial attorney, criminal defense attorney and as a former prosecutor, allows him to provide the highest quality of legal representation for clients in the areas of Personal Injury, Civil Rights, Criminal and DUI Defense.