

**The Washington Post**

# PSYCHIATRIST'S PATIENT GRANTED \$700,000 IN MD.

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A Circuit Court jury in Baltimore has awarded \$700,000 in damages to a woman who was fondled and given hallucinogenic drugs by a psychiatrist who said the practice was a new form of therapy. The Maryland Board of Physician Quality Assurance temporarily suspended Francesco Di Leo's license in July 1987, after finding him guilty of immoral conduct and incompetence in the case. Authorities also found that Di Leo was taking hallucinogens. He eventually was placed on probation and allowed to practice at the Springfield State Hospital in Sykesville, Md., under direct supervision of the hospital superintendent. Di Leo was also ordered to undergo therapy and drug testing. The jury issued its verdict Sept. 28 after a 1 1/2-week trial during which the woman testified that she was given the drug twice in 1986 and fondled during three therapy sessions. Di Leo declined to comment on the case yesterday. In 1986, an article in The Washington Post Health section detailed Di Leo's work in using hallucinogenic drugs on cancer patients. At the time, Di Leo was an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of Maryland with clearance from the federal Food and Drug Administration to use drugs such as LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) in treating the emotional problems of some patients.