|  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |


|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

"It's an equitable concept that basically says that you can't be the beneficiary of some bad conduct and expect to profit from it," explained Chris Seeger, who is representing the family. Seeger has won huge settlements against defendants like Volkswagen and the NFL.

Case law is unclear when it comes to the validity of unjust enrichment claims, so it's difficult to predict how this case will play out, said Northeastern University law professor Daniel Medwed. But if the plaintiffs win, he said the case could have big implications.
"It could, in theory, create precedent for other claims of unjust enrichment dating back to slavery, or other times in which marginalized populations were exploited for the financial benefit of others," he said.

Thermo Fisher Scientific didn't respond to inquiries from GBH News and the company's attorneys wouldn't comment. Inlegalfilings, the company argues under Maryland law
where the case has been filed plaintiffs in unjust enrichment cases have to show they've been harmed in some way, which the company argues the Lacks family has not done. Also, they argue the plaintiffs have to show

The Lacks family's other attorney is Ben Crump, who represented the families of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, and who was retained this week to represent the family of a victim of Saturday's racially motivated mass shooting in Buffalo. The case of Henrietta Lacks is a civil rights issue, Crump told GBH News.
"I sreally indicativeof the Blackstruggle forequality and respect in America," Crump said. "Because it's a racial justice issue when you think about it in the purest form. The children of Henry Ford, they've been able to benefit from his contributions to the world."

But the family of Henrietta Lacks, he said, hasn't been able to benefit from the value of her contribution.
"If this were not a Black woman they did this to, what reparations, what recovery would her f

