

## CELEBRITIES

■ **HONORING PHILANTHROPY:** Minnesota Vikings linebacker Napoleon Harris (l) and Allan L. Cole Sr. (r), Midwest director of urban promotion for J Records, present Grammy Award-winning rapper Nelly with the Napoleon Harris Foundation Philanthropy Award during the foundation's celebrity gala and fundraiser at the Chicago Marriott Hotel. In 2003, before Nelly lost his sister Jackie Donahue to her battle with leukemia, he and Donahue formed Jes Us 4 Jackie, a nationwide marrow donor drive recruitment campaign, which was conducted through Nelly's nonprofit 4Sho4Kids Foundation. A donor drive in St. Louis made history as the most successful Black bone marrow registry drive, having drawn more than 1,200 people (JET, Sept. 13, 2004). Harris, who grew up in Harvey, IL, and his foundation's executive director, Lisa Strohman, believe not only is it important to give back to the young community, but also to celebrate the accomplishments of those who give willingly to others. "Our mission is to provide programs that address the educational, social and physical needs of our children and their families," Harris explained. "It's about raising money for the kids to better their education."



## LAW & JUSTICE

### Settlement Of \$900,000 Reached In Postpartum Death Of Chicago Mom

**A** Chicago husband whose wife took her own life after she suffered postpartum psychosis recently reached a \$900,000 settlement with the doctor and hospital that treated her.

In 2002 Sam Stokes filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against Dr. George Melnyk and Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, alleging that his wife, Melanie, had not been treated for depression in May 2001—almost three months after the birth of the couple's daughter, Sommer Skyy, reports the Chicago Tribune.



Melanie Stokes

On June 1, 2001, Melanie Stokes was released from the hospital, and shortly after that she disappeared. On June 11 the new mother jumped to her death from a 12th floor Chicago hotel window (JET, July 2, 2001).

Under the settlement the hospital must pay \$150,000, and Melnyk must pay \$750,000. The family's attorney Beverly Spearman said the family is pleased with the agreement.

"The husband is really just happy to get this behind him," Spearman told JET. "He's happy with the settlement amount." □