

Publication: Cook County Jury Verdict Reporter Published: 3/8/2024

(TTT 1/1) TRAFFIC LIGHTS--MEDICAL VAN RUNS RED AND PLOWS INTO PLTF--PELVIC FRACTURES (1G)

Rebecca Tornga v American Ambulance LLC, Husam Naser 19L-11971 Tried Sep. 26-29, 2023

- Verdict: \$805,000 (\$400,000 past pain & suffering; \$50,000 future pain & suffering; \$175,000 past loss of normal life; \$25,000 future loss of normal life; \$100,000 past emotional distress; \$25,000 future emotional distress; \$30,000 medical expenses).
- Judge: [Brendan A. O'Brien](#) (IL Cook-Law)
- Pltf Atty(s): [Aaron D. Boeder](#), [Rob L. Kohen](#) of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard (Chicago, IL) DEMAND: \$1,000,000 policy withdrawn ASKED: \$10,000,000
- Deft Atty(s): [James E. Abbott](#), [James D. Sloan](#) of Litchfield Cavo (Chicago, IL) for both defts (Arch Insurance Group) OFFER: \$1,000,000 policy
- Pltf Medl: Dr. Scott McDaniel (Pain Management), Dr. Maninder S. Kohli (Internist), Sandra Murray, L.C.S.W. (Social Worker)
- Deft Medl: Dr. Charles Paik (Orthopedist), Dr. Gaston Saint Martin (Radiologist), Dr. Christine Doyle (Ob/Gyn) for both defts
- Pltf Expert(s): Dr. [Colleen Fitzgerald](#) (Rehab/Physical Medicine); Dr. [Lisa Rone](#) (Psychiatrist)
- Deft Expert(s): Dr. Joel Williams of Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush, 1611 W. Harrison St., #400, Chicago, IL (312-243-4244) (Orthopedist); Dr. [Denise Elser-Poulos](#) (Urogynecologist); Dr. [Robert Hanlon](#), Ph.D. (Neuropsychologist) for both defts

Facts:

Pltf F-28 driving northbound on Willow Springs Road in Countryside entered the intersection at 55th St. with a green light, where eastbound deft Naser ran a red light and struck her vehicle on April 7, 2018. EMS driver Naser was operating a van within the scope of his employment and behalf of deft American Ambulance. He was not responding to an emergency at the time of the collision. Eyewitnesses to the crash testified Naser did not slow down or brake before T-boning pltf's car. Pltf sustained multiple non-displaced fractures to her pelvis and sacrum, subluxation of the pubic symphysis, pelvic floor injuries, sacroiliac joint dysfunction, and two bulging lumbar discs at L4-6; no surgery was performed. Pltf claims continued chronic pain in her back and hip (treated with medication and physical therapy), emotional distress, and post-traumatic stress disorder (\$92,349 medical expenses). Pltf's experts testified her pelvic floor and sacroiliac joints were permanently damaged, she would require lifelong treatment and trigger point injections to control her chronic pain, and her PTSD would require treatment for the rest of her life. The defense admitted negligence, but contested the nature and extent of pltf's injuries. The defense contended pltf made a great recovery from her injuries, the pelvic fractures fully healed without complication, and her pelvic floor dysfunction was mild and treatable but unlikely to be permanent. The defense further denied she had PTSD or chronic pain, denied permanency, and pointed to multiple gaps in treatment. Pltf's counsel reports their last demand was defts' \$1,000,000 policy with a time limit, and the demand was withdrawn on the date the demand expired, after which defts offered \$350,000, then \$750,000, and eventually the \$1,000,000 policy, which was rejected shortly before trial. Defense counsel reports pltf's last demand was \$5,000,000. The parties settled the case post-trial for \$922,441 (reported in JVR's February 2024 Settlements by Category, STTT f/4).

© 2024 by Law Bulletin Media. Content on this site is protected by the copyright laws of the United States. The copyright laws prohibit any copying, redistributing, or retransmitting of any copyright-protected material. The content is NOT WARRANTED as to quality, accuracy or completeness, but is believed to be accurate at the time of compilation. Websites for other organizations are referenced on this site; however, Law Bulletin Media does not endorse or imply endorsement as to the content of these websites. By using this site you agree to the [Terms, Conditions and Disclaimer](#). Law Bulletin Media values its customers and has a [Privacy Policy](#) for users of this website.