

Motorcyclist settles crash claim for \$2.75M

A motorcyclist who was injured after a driver stuck him while making an abrupt left turn has settled a claim against the driver for \$2.75 million, his attorneys report.

Douglas Jennings and Liam Duffy of Yarborough Applegate in Charleston and Gerald Harmon and Jase Felts of Harmon & Felt in Pawleys Island report that their client, Bobby Pope, was riding his motorcycle south on Kings Highway in Myrtle Beach in October 2017. The driver, Diana Bull, made a left turn in front of him from the highway's middle lane and hit Pope, whose motorcycle skidded across 40 feet of highway.



Jennings



Duffy



Harmon

Pope suffered injuries to his right arm and right knee, including a fractured right humerus bone and damage to his right radial nerve. He underwent several surgeries on his right arm, and nerve damage caused a loss of sensation in his fingers, hand, and wrist. For several months Pope had to wear an “unwieldy, outrigger-style splint” on his right hand which suspended his fingers with rubber bands, Duffy said.

Pope had to give up his job as a furniture mover, and his ability to return to the workforce as a laborer was a focal point of the litigation, Duffy said. Rather than hiring a company to produce a “day-in-the-life” video, Pope used a GoPro camera to make his own recording that outlined the difficulties he had with simple tasks such as getting dressed and making sandwiches for his young children.

“It was an effective way to convey just how cumbersome our client’s wrist splint was, which helped defense counsel appreciate a component of the damages that would have otherwise been difficult to describe,” Duffy said.

Bull was driving her mother’s car, which had an underlying insurance policy of \$500,000, and Bull had her own policy for \$500,000 and a \$2 million umbrella policy.

Jennings called the claim a “fairly straight-forward liability case” and that the settlement resolved the “uncertainty of a trial in the best interests of both the plaintiff and defendant.”

Hawthorne Barrett of Turner Padgett in Columbia represented Bull.

“My client is pleased that we were able to reach a fair settlement, and she certainly wishes Mr. Pope well in his recovery and his future endeavors,” Barrett said.

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SETTLEMENT REPORT — MOTORCYCLE CRASH

Amount: \$2.75 million

Injuries alleged: Right midshaft humeral fracture; right radial nerve damage; loss of sensation and contractures in fingers, wrist, and hand; and injury to right knee

Case name: Robert Pope v. Diana Sue Bull

Court: U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina

Case No.: 4:19-cv-00360

Mediator: Karl Folkens of Florence

Date of settlement: September 2020

Attorneys for plaintiffs: Douglas Jennings and Liam Duffy of Yarborough Applegate in Charleston and Gerald Harmon and Jase Felts of Harmon & Felts in Pawleys Island

Attorney for defendant: R. Hawthorne Barrett of Turner Padgett in Columbia