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# \$500K settlement for pair injured in drunk driving crash

■ PHILLIP BANTZ

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Bill Knight and his girlfriend Chris Nelsen were driving in Mount Pleasant earlier this year when an alleged drunk driver ran a red light at 45 mph, causing a crash that resulted in a \$500,000 settlement.



David Yarborough

The ensuing T-bone collision totaled Knight's car and knocked Nelsen unconscious. She sustained a concussion and numerous other relatively minor injuries in the Jan. 6 crash, as did Knight.



David Lail

Nelsen's medical bills totaled more than \$45,000 while Knight's bills were about \$4,300, according to the couple's attorneys, David Yarborough and David Lail of Yarborough Applegate in Charleston.

They negotiated a pre-suit settlement for the \$500,000 limit on the other driver's insurance policy. The driver, Paul Boggioni, blew a .16 – the legal driving limit is .08 – when he was given a breath alcohol test after the crash, according to Yarborough and Lail.

Boggioni was charged with DUI, simple possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He had a glass pipe with him during the accident. Afterwards, he reportedly told a police officer that he had no idea where he was and stated, "I obviously wasn't able to drive."

"Even in a conservative jurisdiction," Lail said, "when you've got a drunk driver at twice the legal limit, the exposure there really lies not so much in the plaintiffs' physical injuries but in the defendant's conduct."



## SETTLEMENT REPORT

### NEGLIGENCE MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH

Case name: *Knight v. Boggioni*

County: Charleston

Date of pre-suit settlement: May 16

Amount: \$500,000

Attorneys for plaintiff:

David Yarborough and David Lail of Yarborough Applegate, Charleston

Attorney for defendant: None

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David Lail