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Student survives head-on collision, settles for \$1.35M

■ HEATH HAMACHER

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David Yarborough Jr.

A 23-year-old art and design student who suffered multiple traumatic injuries when an alleged intoxicated driver crashed head-on into her vehicle has settled her lawsuit for \$1.35 million, according to her attorneys.



Joseph Qualey

Just after 11 p.m. on Aug. 15, according to court documents, Amy Lin, a student at the Savannah College of Art and Design, was driving west on Cooper Store Road in Moncks Corner when Oliver

Puckett II, traveling east, drove a pickup truck owned by co-defendant Terry Hardesty across the median and into Lin's vehicle.

Lin's suit alleges that Puckett was intoxicated and driving too fast, and that Hardesty entrusted the truck to Puckett even though he knew that Puckett had a history of using drugs

and alcohol, behaving recklessly, and exercising poor judgment.

As a result of the crash, Puckett was charged with felony DUI resulting in great bodily injury, and drug offenses. One of Lin's attorneys, David Yarborough Jr. of Yarborough Applegate in Charleston, said medical records show that Puckett had amphetamines in his system at the time of the wreck.

In addition to the mental anguish and emotional distress Lin suffered, she sustained multiple injuries, including permanent physical traumatic brain injury and numerous or-

thopaedic injuries, Yarborough said.

"This was a horrific collision that resulted in terrible injuries to this nice young lady under aggravating circumstances," Yarborough wrote in an email. "We were lucky to obtain the policy limits of all available insurance coverage for her in a short period of time so that she can get a medical treatment she needs going forward. Having a top-notch defense lawyer who is a consummate gentleman on the other side was one of the keys to the early resolution of this case."

Follow Heath Hamacher on Twitter @SCLWHamacher

SETTLEMENT REPORT MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Amount: \$1,350,000

Injuries alleged: Traumatic brain injury, broken arms and leg

Case name: Amy Lin v. Oliver Puckett II and Terry Hardesty

Case No.: 2017-CP-08-1976

Court: Berkeley County Court of Common Pleas

Date of settlement: Aug. 31

Attorneys for plaintiff: David Yarborough Jr. of Yarborough Applegate, and Joseph Qualey, both of Charleston

Attorney for defendants: Matt Story of Clawson & Staubes in Charleston