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SETTLEMENT RESULT: \$100,000

VEHICLE NEGLIGENCE

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SETTLEMENT—Driver injured in chain-reaction collision on freeway

VEHICLE NEGLIGENCE

Motor Vehicle v. Motor Vehicle/Rear-End/
Chain Reaction Collision/Broadside

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Green v. Burns, No. LC037907, Van Nuys.
Settlement date: 1/3/1997.

SETTLEMENT RESULT: \$100,000

COUNSEL

**Plaintiff: Scott J. Corwin, Law Offices of Scott J. Corwin,
Los Angeles.**

Defendant: Samuel J. Muir, Collins, Collins, Muir & Traver,
Pasadena.

FACTS/CONTENTIONS

According to plaintiff: On December 27, 1995, plaintiff, a 46-year-old legal secretary, was traveling northbound on the 405 freeway in the number five lane just south of the 101 interchange. Defendant, traveling in the number four northbound lane, rear-ended a vehicle in front of him, causing a chain-reaction, multiple-car collision. Defendant's vehicle spun out of control and into lane five, causing plaintiff's vehicle to broadside defendant's vehicle.

Plaintiff alleged that defendant was negligent in the operation of a motor vehicle.

Defendant admitted liability but disputed the nature and extent of plaintiff's claimed injuries. Defendant also disputed plaintiff's neuroradiologist's readings of the MRI and disputed that plaintiff required surgery.

CLAIMED INJURIES

According to plaintiff: Plaintiff alleged that she sustained cervical, thoracic, and lumbar strain and sprain injuries, requiring physical therapy. Plaintiff's symptoms continued, and seven months after the accident, a lumbar MRI showed a 4 to 6 mm herniated disk at L4-L5, resulting in nerve root compression and the need for a future diskectomy. Plaintiff underwent a single epidural injection for her continuing symptoms.

CLAIMED DAMAGES

According to plaintiff: \$7,701 past medical; \$45,000 future medical; \$996 lost income.

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS

According to plaintiff: Plaintiff made a CCP § 998 settlement demand for \$100,000 (policy limits). Defendant made no settlement offer but suggested he would settle for \$60,000.

EXPERTS

Plaintiff: Thomas Knapp, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, Santa Monica (310) 829-2663. Harold L. Segal, M.D., neurosurgeon, Santa Monica (310) 829-5888. Bradley A. Jabour, M.D., neuroradiologist, Santa Monica (310) 829-7086.

Defendant: None.

COMMENTS

According to plaintiff: Settlement was reached approximately six months after the case was filed.

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