

# TRIALS DIGEST®

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**SETTLEMENT RESULT: \$175,000**

## VEHICLE NEGLIGENCE

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### SETTLEMENT—Driver injured in six-car chain-reaction rear-ender

#### VEHICLE NEGLIGENCE

Motor Vehicle v. Motor Vehicle/Rear-End/Chain Reaction Collision/Parked/Stalled/Stopped Vehicle

#### NO COURT/UNFILED SETTLEMENT

*Rotman v. Weintraub*. Settlement date: 2/20/2004.

**SETTLEMENT RESULT: \$175,000**

#### COUNSEL

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

Defendant: None.

#### FACTS/CONTENTIONS

According to plaintiff: On April 10, 2003, plaintiff, a 43-year-old writer, was traveling northbound on Pacific Coast Highway and stopped for traffic. Defendant was also northbound on Pacific Coast Highway and rear-ended the third vehicle behind plaintiff, causing a chain-reaction collision. Plaintiff's vehicle was knocked into a vehicle ahead of her. There were a total of six cars involved in the collision.

Plaintiff alleged that defendant was negligent in the operation of a motor vehicle and that all of plaintiff's claimed injuries were a direct result of the trauma that she sustained in the collision.

Defendant admitted liability but disputed the nature and extent of plaintiff's claimed injuries and the need for future surgery. Defendant further contended that there were three cars that absorbed the force of the initial impact before plaintiff's vehicle was struck.

#### CLAIMED INJURIES

According to plaintiff: Cervical and lumbar strain and sprain injuries, requiring physical therapy; MRI scans revealed a disk protrusion at C5-C6, measuring 3-4 mm. Three months of physical therapy failed to alleviate plaintiff's symptoms, and she may require a cervical disectomy in the future.

#### CLAIMED DAMAGES

According to plaintiff: \$6,999 past medical; \$45,000 future medical.

#### SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS

According to plaintiff: Demand: \$250,000. Offer: None for six months. After an IME, defendant initially offered \$95,000.

#### EXPERTS

None.