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June 18, 2012

SETTLEMENT RESULT: \$120,000

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MOTOR VEHICLE

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Driver rear-ended after stopping for emergency vehicle

VEHICLE NEGLIGENCE

Motor Vehicle vs. Motor Vehicle/Rear-End/Parked/Stalled/Stopped Vehicle/Low Impact/Speed/Intersection/Emergency Vehicle

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Petrusis v. Wong, Docket number: EC055888, Glendale. Judge: Not reported. Trial type: Settlement. Settlement date: 4/25/2012.

SETTLEMENT: \$120,000

COUNSEL

Plaintiff: Scott J. Corwin, Law Offices of Scott J. Corwin, Los Angeles.
Defendant: Christopher L. Thomas, Early, Maslach & O'Shea, Long Beach

FACTS/CONTENTIONS

According to plaintiff: On June 18, 2009, plaintiff Cunegunda Petrusis, a 74-year-old retired man who suffered from longstanding multiple sclerosis, was the passenger in a 2000 Toyota Camry stopped for a red light at an intersection of Glendale Boulevard and Monterey Road in Glendale, California. The light turned green, and plaintiff's vehicle started to pull forward, when suddenly an emergency vehicle with its sirens activated on Monterey Road approached the intersection, so plaintiff driver stopped and defendant Garrett Wong, who was driving a 2005 Jaguar, rear-ended plaintiff's vehicle. There was no damage to defendant's vehicle and less than \$1,700 damage to plaintiff's vehicle.

Plaintiff alleged that defendant was negligent in the operation of his vehicle and that all of plaintiff's claimed injuries were a direct result of said negligence.

Defendant accepted liability but disputed the nature and extent of

plaintiff's injuries. Defendant claimed that a minor impact could not have resulted in injury to plaintiff and that she should have recovered

CLAIMED INJURIES

According to plaintiff: Plaintiff sustained exacerbation of pre-existing low back injuries. Plaintiff underwent extensive physical therapy and multiple epidural injections to her lumbar spine. She was told by four neurosurgeons that she required low back surgery, but because of her pre-existing multiple sclerosis, surgery was too great a risk.

CLAIMED DAMAGES

According to plaintiff: \$9,321 medical (Howell specials).

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS

According to plaintiff: Plaintiff demanded defendant's \$250,000 policy. Defendant initially offered nothing.

EXPERTS

Defendant: Robert M. Wilson, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, Cedars-Sinai Medical Tower, Los Angeles (310) 289-0249.

COMMENTS

According to plaintiff: The insurance carrier was 21st Century Insurance; the adjuster was Lori Fuscardo.

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