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November 4, 2013

SETTLEMENT RESULT: \$110,000

Vol. 16 , No. 44

MOTOR VEHICLE

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Driver allegedly ran red light, causing collision, injuries

VEHICLE NEGLIGENCE

Motor Vehicle v. Motor Vehicle/Intersection/Signal Violation/Left Turn

NO COURT/UNFILED SETTLEMENT

Skrzat v. Pimental, Docket number: Not reported. Judge: Not reported. Trial type: Settlement. Settlement date: 8/30/2013.

SETTLEMENT: \$110,000

\$110,000 to plaintiff for damages

COUNSEL

Plaintiff: Scott J. Corwin, Law Offices of Scott J. Corwin, Los Angeles.
Defendant: William Chopak, Brown, Bonn & Friedman, Costa Mesa.

FACTS/CONTENTIONS

According to plaintiff: On May 26, 2012, plaintiff Jason Skrzat, a 32-year-old teacher, was driving a 2012 Honda Accord east on Costco Drive and stopped at the intersection of Central Avenue in Montclair, Calif. Plaintiff claimed the light turned green and as he entered the intersection to make a left turn, he was struck by defendant Joseph Pimental, who was driving a 1999 Toyota Tacoma south on Central Avenue when he ran a red light and hit plaintiff's vehicle.

Plaintiff alleged 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 disputed liability claiming plaintiff was speeding and was 20 percent at fault for the accident. Defendant further disputed the nature and extent of plaintiff's claimed injuries and did not believe plaintiff required surgery as a result of the accident.

CLAIMED INJURIES

According to plaintiff: Plaintiff sustained cervical and lumbar strains and sprains that were treated with physical therapy. Plaintiff had a lumbar MRI that revealed a 3 to 4 mm L5-S1 disc bulge. Due to ongoing lumbar pain, plaintiff underwent two lumbar epidural injections. Plaintiff is a candidate for surgery in the form of a laminectomy and discectomy.

CLAIMED DAMAGES

According to plaintiff: \$82,547 past medical; \$80,000 future medical.

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS

According to plaintiff: Plaintiff demanded defendant's \$250,000 policy. Defendant offered \$16,000 initially viewing the case as a soft-tissue injury.

The case was mediated before Jeffrey Krivis Esq. As a result of the mediation, the case settled two months later for \$110,000. Plaintiff demanded defendant's \$100,000 policy, which was tendered in settlement.

EXPERTS

Plaintiff: Not reported.

COMMENTS

According to plaintiff: The insurance carrier was Ameriprise Auto & Home Insurance; the adjuster was Hillary Hackman.

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