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\$9M award for crash sets record in Boone County

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A Boone County jury last week awarded \$9 million to the family of a father and son killed in a 2018 crash.

The award is larger than any previously reported Boone County verdict or settlement, according to John L. Kirkton, editor of Jury Verdict Reporter, a product of Law Bulletin Media.

A verdict was reached Nov. 13 after a weeklong trial before 17th Judicial Circuit Associate Judge Ronald A. Barch, according to Patrick A. Salvi of Salvi Schostok & Pritchard, one of the plaintiff's attorneys.

On March 26, 2018, Pedro Pasillas-Delgado, 22, was driving in unincorporated Flora Township, a few miles south of Belvidere, with his 52-year-old father, Pedro Pasillas-Sanchez.

As Pasillas-Delgado and his father traveled southbound on Stone Quarry Road, Corey Lee, an employee of defendant Consolidated Materials Inc., struck Pasillas-Delgado's car after he blew through a stop sign driving westbound on Bloods Point Road.



Patrick A. Salvi



Eirene N. Salvi



Brian L. Salvi

Both vehicles flipped, and Pasillas-Delgado and Pasillas-Sanchez died at the scene.

Consolidated Materials admitted liability prior to trial and offered a \$3 million settlement, which the plaintiff estates declined, Salvi said. Lee was dismissed from the case before trial.

Salvi said they opted for an in-person jury trial because the nature of the case was relatively straightforward and the client wanted a resolution.

Jurors were seated far apart throughout the gallery in the courtroom, and masks were required except when attorneys and witnesses were speaking.

"It took away from the intimate closeness to the witness that ordinarily you'd have," Salvi said, adding that things went relatively smoothly in his first jury trial since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brian L. Salvi and Eirene N. Salvi of Salvi Schostok & Pritchard also represented the family at trial.

Consolidated Materials was represented by Jonathan W. Goken and F. Michael Pasqualino of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP.

Goken said he recognized it was a "very difficult admitted liability case."

"After settlement did not become a viable option and

the [p]laintiffs demanded \$50.5 million from the jury, we are pleased with the outcome," he wrote in an emailed statement. "We hope this verdict allows everyone involved to move forward with their lives with the peace of knowing this litigation is now behind them."

"We also would like to express our condolences to the entire Pasillas family for their loss."

Pasqualino echoed Goken's sentiments.

The 17th Judicial Circuit Court case is *Estate of Pedro Pasillas-Sanchez, et al., v. Consolidated Materials Inc., et al.*, 18 L 15.