

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin®

VOLUME 168, NO. 25

LAW BULLETIN MEDIA

Pedestrian hit on sidewalk gets \$3.7M

GRACE BARBIC

gbarbic@lawbulletinmedia.com

A Cook County jury awarded \$3.7 million to a man whose arm was severely injured when a construction company's vehicle veered onto the sidewalk and hit him.

The jury returned a verdict Feb. 24 after a nearly two-week trial before Cook County Circuit Court Associate Judge Mary R. Minella.

The award included compensatory damages for William Lief for past and future pain and suffering, disability, future medical expenses and other losses.

On June 29, 2018, Lief was walking on the sidewalk on Wolf Road near 195th Street in Mokena.

An Aspen Service Construction & Repair vehicle, driven by Brian Cole, was traveling in the same direction. The vehicle drifted off the roadway and struck Lief



Patrick A. Salvi II

on the sidewalk.

Lief was injured on his left arm, requiring two surgeries and physical therapy.

His attorney, Patrick A. Salvi II of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C., said Lief was unable to return to work for several years after the incident.

Lief filed a lawsuit against Cole and Koschik & Koschik, LLC doing business as Aspen, in August 2018, claiming that Cole as an individual and employee or agent of Aspen was negligent in several ways.

The claims included fail-



Heidi L. Wickstrom

ure to maintain control over operation of an automobile so as to avoid colliding with pedestrians and failure to keep a proper lookout while operating an automobile on a public roadway.

Salvi said the case went to trial Feb. 15 over damages only.

"I thought it was a fair verdict that recognizes both Bill's past and future," Salvi said. "The injury that he suffered has impacted his ability to work. It has been emotionally and physically challenging for him. And it'll continue to be ...



Michael J. Schostok

just because you have a verdict doesn't make the pain go away. He still has that today and he will going forward."

Lief was also represented by Heidi L. Wickstrom and Michael J. Schostok of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard.

The defendants were represented by Sharon M. Peart of Esp Kreuzer Cores, LLP and Scott D. Stephenson of Litchfield Cavo LLP. They could not be reached for comment.

The case is *William Lief v. Brian T. Cole and Aspen Service Construction*, No. 18 L 8461.