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Husband of woman killed by dump truck awarded \$10.5M

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A Cook County jury awarded \$10.5 million to the husband of a woman killed when she was hit by a dump truck.

On the morning of Sept. 29, 2022, Sylwia Jarosz, 45, was riding her bicycle to work. She was a kindergarten teacher at Long Grove Country School.

Jarosz was biking along northbound Wilke Road near the intersection of Lake Cook Road in Arlington Heights.

She came to a stop at a red light on the southwest corner of the intersection and was waiting for the walk sign to cross Lake Cook Road.

Jarosz was traveling towards a biking path at the Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve, documents stated.

While waiting for the signal, a dump truck with a trailer attached to it attempted to make a left-hand turn from Lake Cook Road onto Wilke Road.

The truck was owned by AJD Concrete Construction.

According to the complaint, the driver was going over the speed limit and did not stop before entering the intersection.

The truck collided with



Lance D. Northcutt



Jennifer L. Ashley



Emily T. Art

another vehicle that was turning left in front of it.

The collision caused the truck to veer off the road and hit Jarosz. She was thrown into the air and landed on a grassy area.

Jarosz was found unconscious and transported to a nearby hospital with life-threatening injuries.

By the time she arrived at the hospital, she had no neurological function and died later that afternoon.

Jarosz's husband Krzysztof, as independent administrator of the estate, sued AJD for wrongful death and survival action in Cook County Circuit Court.

The complaint alleged the driver, as an agent of AJD, was negligent in operating the

truck in several ways. That included speeding, failing to decrease speed when approaching an intersection and failing to keep a proper lookout, among other claims.

AJD admitted liability just before the case went to trial on March 11, according to the plaintiff's attorneys.

The case proceeded to trial on damages only before Cook County Circuit Court Judge John P. Kirby.

The jury returned a verdict in favor of the estate on March 13.

The award covers loss of society, grief, sorrow and mental suffering and loss of financial support.

The estate is represented by Lance D. Northcutt, Jennifer L. Ashley and Emily T. Art of

Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard PC.

"Krzysztof and Sylwia were college sweethearts in Poland and moved to the U.S. together in 2005. Krzysztof has suffered an unimaginable loss, and every aspect of his life has changed since losing his best friend," Northcutt said. "It was not easy for Krzysztof to relive the worst moments of his life, but we are thankful to the jury for listening to his story and recognizing his grief."

AJD is represented by Daniel P. Costello and Shipra Mehta of Costello Ginex & Wideikis PC. They could not be reached for comment.

The case is *Jarosz v. AJD Concrete Construction Corp.*, No. 23 L 2948.