

## *Kristen Harmon v. Defendant Driver* **Favorable Verdict**



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**Plaintiff Counsel: Morgan and Morgan (Michael J. Smith and Meranda Landes)**

***Admitted Liability — Four-Day Jury Trial On Causation, Permanency And Damages; Lake County; Morgan & Morgan; \$1.8M Sought; Only \$46K Awarded for Past Medical Bills***

On February 2, 2023, Senior Partner Juan Ruiz, Esq., and Associate Benjamin Hamilton, Esq., obtained a favorable result in a motor vehicle accident matter styled *Kristen Harmon v. Defendant Driver* in the Fifth Circuit Court in and for Lake County, Florida. Plaintiff sought damages for past and future pain and suffering, mental anguish, disability, disfigurement, inconvenience, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life.

The defense admitted liability and moved forward to a four-day jury trial on causation, permanency and damages. At trial, Plaintiff asked the jury for \$1.8 million. The jury returned a verdict of \$46,000 and specifically found that Plaintiff did not suffer any permanent injury.

Plaintiff alleged that while she was parked exiting a shopping center, she was struck on the driver's side of her SUV by Defendant Driver's pickup truck travelling at 35mph. She claimed to have sustained three herniated discs in her spine as a result of the incident.

Plaintiff asked the jury for \$1.8 million using a per diem argument that Plaintiff should be awarded \$5 per hour for the two years since the accident and \$3.00 per hour for the estimated 45 years she is projected to live under Mortality Table guidelines. The jury awarded Plaintiff only \$46,000 for past medical bills. The jury found no permanent injury and did not award damages for future medical bills or pain and suffering.