

IDAHO FAVORABLE JURY VERDICT



Joe Aldridge and Naomi Doraisamy recently obtained a favorable jury verdict in the defense of an admitted-liability trucking accident case.

The case involved a rear-end accident where the defendant truck driver was distracted by his GPS and failed to stop when traffic stopped ahead of him. The Defendants' truck struck the rear of Plaintiff's pickup, rendering the pickup a total loss. Plaintiff was not transported from the scene but went to the emergency room a few hours after the accident. Plaintiff is a 48-year-old male who owns a landscaping business.

Claimed injuries:

- High grade concussion with moderate traumatic brain injury and post-concussion syndrome
- Whiplash/cervical strain
- Occipital neuralgia with resulting migraines
- Plantar plate tear in right foot
- PTSD

Claimed special damages:

- \$120,000 in past medicals
- \$180,000 future medicals

Claimed general damages:

- \$450,000

Pre-trial offers:

- Plaintiff's last offer before trial was approximately \$500,000.
- Defendants' last offer before trial was \$155,000.

Plaintiff called treating physicians and two retained experts—an orthopedic surgeon from Salt Lake City and a neurologist from Philadelphia. Plaintiff also called fact witnesses including Plaintiff's mother, son, and best friend. Plaintiff asked the jury for \$750,000.

Defendants called an accident reconstruction and biomechanical engineering expert who testified regarding the

forces involved in the accident as applied to Plaintiff's body inside the cab of the pickup. Defendants also called a local physiatrist and a neuropsychologist who performed IMEs on the Plaintiff. Plaintiff had no outwardly visible injuries from the accident, and his credibility was at issue. Defendants called fact witnesses who were present at the accident, as well as character witnesses—including Plaintiff's former employer and Plaintiff's former accountant—who testified that Plaintiff had an untruthful character. Defendants argued that it was appropriate for Plaintiff to get checked out in the ER after the accident and to undergo reasonable course of physical therapy and chiropractic treatments for cervical strain. But Defendants argued the rest of Plaintiff's medical bills were unrelated and Plaintiff did not need future medical treatment.

The jury returned a verdict for \$86,000.



Joe Aldridge

208.991.1200
jma@sgaidaho.com



Naomi Doraisamy

208.991.1200
nmd@sgaidaho.com