

KENTUCKY BODILY INJURY TRIAL

Ward
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WHT attorneys Ashley Brown and Kaylee Collins successfully defended a client in a bodily injury jury trial in Morgan County, Kentucky before Judge Rebecca Phillips. The plaintiff was represented by Attorneys Kyle Salyer and Daniel Frederick. In the case, the plaintiff alleged various injuries, including a claim the collision resulted in a permanent spine injury. She had incurred over \$25,000 in past medical expenses, which she did not seek at trial, instead asking for millions of dollars in pain and suffering. Our client stipulated to liability and that the plaintiff was injured but disputed the extent of the injury or any permanency. The plaintiff retained neurologist Dr. Joseph Zerga to connect serious injuries to the collision and to offer opinions on the need for future care. The defense relied on orthopedic spine surgeon, Dr. Chris Stephens, to rebut that testimony. Pretrial motion practice included

limiting any references to liability insurance, which was especially crucial in this case considering the plaintiff's attempt to reference insurance companies and prior verdict amounts in unrelated cases to the jury in exhibits. The case was tried over three days in Morgan County, with the jury instructions seeking \$6,000,000 in pain and suffering. In closing argument, the defense asked the jury to award only \$11,000 in pain and suffering, which matched the amount of medical expenses Dr. Stephens testified was reasonable, necessary, and related to the collision. The Morgan County jury returned a verdict for \$11,000, and a judgment in that amount has been entered and satisfied, with no appeal. Our client, Mrs. Teresa Stacy, was satisfied with the outcome and still regularly communicates with Ashley and Kaylee.



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