

OHIO LAWYERS WEEKLY

February 5, 2001

Greyhound Accident Suit Settled For \$12 Million *Six Passengers, Driver Died In Crash*



CLAPP



DEJARDINS

\$12,042,956 Mediation Settlement

The plaintiff was a passenger on a Greyhound bus traveling on the Pennsylvania State turnpike at 4 a.m. on June 20, 1998. The bus crashed into the back of a parked tractor-trailer. There was no evidence of the bus driver attempting to stop, slow down or swerve to avoid the collision. Six other passengers, including the bus driver, were killed in the accident. The force of the impact destroyed the front of the bus and forced the plaintiff underneath the seat in front of him. The plaintiff sustained a closed head injury, pelvis fractures, brain contusions and hematoma, compound fracture and a dislocated toe, facial fractures and lung trauma, which appeared within 8 hours of admission to the hospital. Plaintiff suffered permanent severe short term memory impairment, making working and independent living impossible for the rest of his life. Present value of all economic losses was about \$3,000,000.

The defendants contested that the crash was the result of the bus driver having a heart attack. The plaintiffs argued that the driver had taken over-the-counter medications and had been drinking prior to the crash.

This was the driver's last scheduled run before he planned to retire after years of service to Greyhound.

Type of Action: Bus Accident

Type of Injuries: Severe closed head injury; total loss of short term memory and the ability to form long term memory; pelvic fractures; brain contusions; hematoma, compound fracture and dislocation of toe; facial fractures; lung trauma.

Court/Case Number/Date: U. S. District Court South of New York/98CV-8957(CHS)/Nov. 17, 2000

Caption: Huang v. Greyhound

Judge, Jury or ADR: Mediation

Name of Judge: Charles Haight Jr.

Verdict or Settlement: Settlement

Allocation of Fault: N/A

Last Offer: N/A

Last Demand: N/A

Attorneys for Plaintiff: R. Jack Clapp, Cleveland; Douglas P. Dejardins, Washington, D.C.

Insurance Carrier: Lexington Insurance

Plaintiff's Experts: Dr. Barry Gordon (neurologist), Baltimore; Edmond Provder (vocational rehabilitation/life care planning), New York; Harvey Rosen (economist), Cleveland

Defendant's Experts: N/A