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IN THE NEWS

IN THE COURTS

A 39-year-old man has received a \$1.72 million settlement after suffering debilitating back injuries in a car accident.

Michael Ryan was driving on I-55 near Plainfield when his vehicle was struck from behind by a fast-moving sports utility vehicle driven by John Hipelius. Ryan's vehicle was totaled in the accident.

Ryan suffered back and leg injuries that necessitated two lumbar surgeries and other procedures. He suffers from a failed fusion of one disc, an annular tear without herniation of another disc and chronic lower back pain. Those injuries, along with radiculopathy, require ongoing treatment.

Hipelius was driving his personal vehicle, but on duty for Liberty Lithographers at the time. Liberty's insurer, The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., will pay the settlement.

Ryan was represented by **Mark E. McNabola** and **Terrance M. Nofsinger** of McNabola Law Group.

Dan L. Boho and **Michael J. Cunningham** of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP represented Hipelius.

The final settlement was approved on March 31 by Will County Circuit Judge **Michael J. Powers**.

The Will County case is *Michael Ryan v. Liberty Lithographers, d/b/a Liberty Creative Solutions Inc., et al.*, No. 08 L 224.