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— In the News —

In the collar counties

A father and daughter who sustained injuries requiring surgeries as the result of a collision with a truck while the two were riding a motorcycle in Joliet have settled their lawsuit for \$6 million, according to the lawyer representing the plaintiffs.

On a Sunday morning in 2006, Richard Wright was driving a motorcycle with his then 15-year-old daughter, Kelly, seated behind him when a maintenance worker failed to yield the right of way as he turned his pick-up truck at a stop sign and struck the motorcycle, throwing the father and daughter from the vehicle, said **Mark E. McNabola** of Cogan & McNabola P.C. who, along with **Jon C. Papin**, represented the plaintiffs.

The teen sustained a severe broken ankle, requiring multiple surgeries, including a pending fusion surgery, and her father sustained numerous injuries, including a fractured wrist and ankle, McNabola said.

The plaintiffs' lawyer said \$5.25 million of the settlement has been directed to the daughter. That amount is a record high in Illinois for a reported settlement or verdict in a case involving an ankle injury to a minor plaintiff, according to John L. Kirkton, editor of the Jury Verdict Reporter.

Edward W. Moltzen of Edward W. Moltzen & Associates Ltd. represented the truck driver and his employer, Sharp Farms Inc. **Alton C. Haynes** of Haynes, Studnicka, Kahan, O'Neill & Poulakidas LLC represented Charles D. Sharp Associates Inc., another defendant employer in the case.

The case, *Richard Wright, et al. v. John Martis, et al.*, No. 06 L 508, was dismissed on Nov. 16 by Will County Associate Judge **Michael J. Powers**.