

VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY

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VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

Plaintiff sought to prove drunken driver fled scene

\$150,000 Settlement

The defendant ran a red light at an intersection in Henrico County. After striking the plaintiff, he left the scene of the accident. Defendant admitted being “high” when driving and admitted drinking one and a half cans (20 oz.) of “Four Loco.” Plaintiff had evidence that the defendant’s blood alcohol level was .15 at the time of the ac-

cident, based on his BAC of .12 taken two hours after the accident.

The defendant lived in the city of Richmond. Suit was brought in Richmond Circuit Court for compensatory and punitive damages. As the case was pending, the primary coverage of \$25,000 was offered, with the excess carrier offering \$10,000. Three days before trial, the excess carrier moved to

continue the case based on late notice, and their motion was denied.

Defendant’s motion to limit the plaintiff from proving that the defendant had fled the scene of the accident also was denied by the court. Shortly thereafter, the excess carrier increased its offer \$125,000 and the case was settled for a total of \$150,000.

[12-T-121]

Type of accident: Personal injury - automobile accident

Injuries alleged: Right knee pain; prior injury with chronically torn ACL with an intact PCL; complex tear in body of posterior horn of the medial meniscus; tear in right lateral meniscus; knee replacement recommended but not related to accident

Court: Richmond Circuit Court

Special damages: \$10,750.31

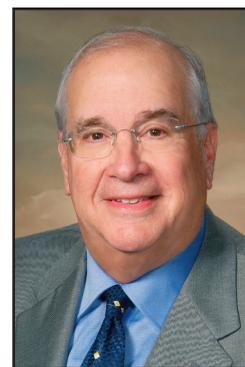
Verdict or settlement: Settlement

Amount: \$150,000

Attorney for plaintiff: Jay Tronfeld, Richmond

Plaintiff’s experts: Dr. Alphonse Poklis, toxicologist; Dr. Robert Adelaar, orthopedist; Dr. Steven Melhorn, osteopath

Insurance carriers: Alfa Specialty - primary liability; Erie - UIM



TRONFELD