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WEEKLY

■ \$125,000 SETTLEMENT

Woman settles with insurer after hit-and-run on highway

BY ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

Special to Missouri Lawyers Media

A Franklin County woman who suffered neck and back injuries after her car allegedly was forced off the road by an Interstate 70 hit-and-run driver in July 2010 settled a claim with her insurer for \$125,000.

Fifty-one-year-old Pamela Sherry Ransom of Union was driving a 2002 Ford Expedition in the far left lane of westbound I-70 in Saline County when an unidentified vehicle in the adjacent westbound lane attempted to merge, according to a Missouri State Highway Patrol accident report. Ransom lost control of her SUV, which ran off the roadway three times before hitting a guard cable in the median. Ransom told troopers that the ghost vehicle was a black Jeep with Michigan license plates.

Plaintiff’s attorney Donald L. Schlappizzi said that

the impact of the collision caused further cervical damage to a pre-existing spinal injury and required Ransom to have neck surgery in 2011, with her medical bills totaling approximately \$42,000.

According to Schlappizzi, AAA Insurance initially offered \$19,000 to Ransom, citing both the pre-existing injury and her comparative fault. Attorneys for the insurer did not respond to several interview requests.

Ransom filed suit in August 2013 in St. Louis Circuit Court, but the case was dismissed in February after the Automobile Club Inter-Insurance Exchange agreed to the six-figure settlement. **MO**



Donald L. Schlappizzi

■ \$125,000 SETTLEMENT

MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

■ **Venue:** St. Louis Circuit Court

■ **Case Number/Date:** 1322-CC09136/Jan. 28, 2015

■ **Judge:** Robin Vannoy

■ **Insurance:** AAA Insurance

■ **Caption:** Pamela Ransom v. Automobile Club Inter-Insurance Exchange

■ **Plaintiff’s Attorney:** Donald L. Schlappizzi, Schlappizzi Attorneys at Law, St. Louis

■ **Defendant’s Attorney:** Kurt A. Hentz and David J. Deterding, HeplerBroom, St. Louis