

Elderly crash victim, wife collect \$1 million

By: North Carolina Lawyers Weekly Staff April 27, 2012

Lawyers for an elderly man and his wife secured a \$1 million recovery for their clients following a head-on collision in 2007 that resulted in a severe fracture of the man's ankle and the subsequent 55 percent permanent disability of his left lower extremity.

Dalton Granville Lilley Sr. was awarded \$750,000 plus interest and costs for his personal injury claim. Anna Watson Lilley, his wife of 52 years, was awarded a loss of consortium recovery of \$60,000 plus interest and costs.

Liability coverage from defendant driver's insurance, State Farm, was \$100,000. The arbitration recovery from the UIM carrier, State Auto Property and Casualty Insurance Co., was \$900,000

As a result of the accident, Lilley suffered multiple fractures, including to his foot, spine and ribs. One of his ankle bones was extruding out of the back of his left foot, which had to be reassembled before surgeons placed fixation screws in it. Lilley was also left with an open wound for five months.

Lilley's life expectancy was stipulated at least 12.3 years at the time of the crash, and his wife's life expectancy was stipulated as longer than that.

The parties stipulated medical expenses at \$176,718, and expenses for materials and labor for the installation of ramps to Lilley's carport and den at \$1,629.

Verdicts & Settlements Report

Tried in: Wake County

Arbitrators: Robert A. Collier, Marshall A. Gallop Jr. and Sam Q. Carlisle II

Case Name: *Dalton Granville Lilley, Sr. and Anna Watson Lilley v. State Auto Property and Casualty Insurance Company*

Case No.: Beaufort County, 08 CVS 1198.

Recovery amount: \$1 million

Attorneys for plaintiff: Don Beskind, Karen Rabenau and Don Strickland of Twiggs, Beskind, Strickland & Rabenau (Raleigh) and William P. Pinna of Pinna Johnston & Burwell (Raleigh)

Attorney for defendant: Henry Gorham (Raleigh, NC)