

Suits & Deals

Car & Truck Crash Results in \$860,000.00 Award

Medel-Bruno v. Disla-Garcia:

A woman who sustained back injuries when her car was struck by a tractor-trailer was awarded \$860,000 in arbitration on Sept. 28, 2022.

According to counsel, on Feb. 28, 2018, plaintiff Ofelia Medel-Bruno, 36, was driving on Docks Corner Road in South Brunswick. The side of her sedan was struck by the front of a tractor-trailer driven by Ruben Disla-Garcia, who was exiting the parking lot of an adjacent warehouse compound.

Medel-Bruno sued Disla-Garcia and his employer, CAC International LLC, claiming failure to yield. Medel-Bruno was ultimately diagnosed with a herniation at lumbar intervertebral disc L4-5 and lumbar radiculopathy. She received chiropractic and pain-management care. She later underwent a decompression surgery at L4-5. She then consulted with a neurosurgeon and received another epidural injection to her lumbar spine.

The suit claimed the accident caused her to suffer a permanent injury to her lumbar spine. Her neurosurgeon stated that she may be a candidate for a lumbar fusion in the future. Medel-Bruno was not employed at the time of the accident. She later attempted to clean homes but had to quit due to persisting back pain. She claimed her future earnings capacity was compromised. Medel-Bruno sought to recover over \$750,000 in future lost earnings, plus damages for past and future pain and suffering.

The defense's expert in orthopedic surgery in his report opined that Medel-Bruno sustained a measure of permanency from the accident; however, she does not need any future treatment. The defense challenged her lost wage claim.

Following binding arbitration, Medel-Bruno was determined to receive \$860,000.

Medel-Bruno was represented by **Salomao Nascimento** of



Salomao Nascimento, Esq.

COURTESY OF DAVID ZIMAND

Epstein Ostrove in Edison. The defendants were represented by **Laurence I. Gross** of **BBC Law** in Marlton.

***Editor's Comment:** *This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiff's counsel. Defense counsel did not respond to the reporter's phone calls.*

— **Aaron Jenkins** (adapted from VerdictSearch)