

# VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY

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## Independence of 72-year-old limited by injuries from crash

### \$840,000 Settlement

On Oct. 17, 2008, the plaintiff was a passenger in a vehicle being driven by the defendant that was traveling on Temple Avenue in Colonial Heights. The defendant was attempting to make a left turn at a traffic light when she turned in front of another vehicle resulting in the defendant's vehicle being struck by the second vehicle. The plaintiff was 72 years old at the time of the accident.

The plaintiff was transported to VCU Medical Center where she was treated for a pelvic fracture, several rib fractures and a clavicle fracture. No surgery was necessary and the plaintiff was released after three days. The plaintiff subsequently developed a number of related medical complications associated with her injuries and age, which required her to be hospitalized for extended periods of time on three separate occasions.

Also, the plaintiff received approximately five



**DURRETT**

months of skilled inpatient care before returning to her home. Renovations were made to the plaintiff's home to allow for her physical limitations and needs.

A permanent impairment evaluation revealed the plaintiff sustained a 14 percent permanent partial impairment of the whole person as a result of her orthopedic injuries. A life-

care plan projected the plaintiff's yearly medical expenses for medical appointments, prescriptions and medical devices to cost between \$9,500 and \$13,000.

The plaintiff was prepared to present evidence that her injuries interfered with her ability to engage in her pre-accident activities of daily living and caused her to lose her independence because she can no longer drive. [10-T-188]

**Type of case:** Personal injury - automobile accident

**Injuries alleged:** Pelvic fracture, multiple rib fractures and right clavicle fracture

**Name of case:** Confidential

**Court:** Petersburg Circuit Court

**Special damages:** Medical damages - \$209,560.43; house renovations - \$5,500; future medical specials -

\$9,509.58 - \$13,604.32 annually

**Verdict or Settlement:** Settlement

**Amount:** \$840,000

**Plaintiff's attorney:** David E. Durrett, Richmond