

# Woman diagnosed with PTSD after collision with van

## \$500,000 settlement

On Oct. 3, 2008, the plaintiff was driving to her home in the Berkshires when her SUV was struck by an oncoming van that had crossed the center line when the operator fell asleep. The defendant was subsequently treated for narcolepsy.

The plaintiff's vehicle skidded and rolled over. She remained conscious and was described as being "hysterical" at the scene. Police assisted her to the curb; she showed no visible signs of injury. She was rushed to the local ER, where she was diagnosed with a trapezius strain and discharged.

Four days later, the plaintiff went to her primary care physician complaining of neck and back pain. Her PCP referred her to a chiropractor. Six months later, she was diagnosed with post-concussion syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder by her treating neurologist, though her brain MRI was normal.

The plaintiff's expert was prepared to testify that she sustained a diffuse axonal injury to her brain, PTSD, chronic headaches, a mood disorder and sleep disturbance.

At the time of the accident, she was working as a one-to-one assistant in a public school. At the time of the mediation, she had started volunteer work in an

effort to see if she could be employed in the foreseeable future.

**Action:** Motor vehicle negligence

**Injuries alleged:** Post-concussion syndrome, brain injury, PTSD

**Case name:** Withheld

**Court/case no.:** Withheld

**Jury and/or judge:** N/A (mediated)

**Amount:** \$500,000

**Date:** Jan. 7, 2012

**Attorneys:** Kenneth I. Kolpan, Boston; William Martin, Martin, Oliveira & Hamel, Pittsfield (for the plaintiff)

## Law Office of Kenneth I. Kolpan, P.C.

Suite 1425  
175 Federal Street  
Boston, Ma. 02110

Tel: 617-426-2558

Fax: 617-426-7972

Email: [ken@kolpan.com](mailto:ken@kolpan.com)

Website: [www.kolpan.com](http://www.kolpan.com)