

VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

Man injured in collision with semi during merger settles for \$250,000

■ ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

A St. Charles County man injured in a two-vehicle collision with a semi-truck trailer attempting to merge onto Interstate 70 West from Earth City Expressway has settled a



Gary Burger



Michael Sheldon

personal injury lawsuit against the other driver and that man's employer for \$250,000.

The Sept. 14, 2022, collision left Michael Koch with a traumatic brain injury, lacerations and scarring to his left arm and neck and back damage, said plaintiff's attorney Michael Sheldon. The suit against semi-truck driver Donald Wade of Independence, and his em-

ployer, Diamond Back Services Inc. of Gladstone, was settled on April 10, records provided by Sheldon show.

According to the suit, Wade improperly merged into the driver side of Shelton's car while attempting to enter I-70 West. The back of the trailer struck the front driver side of Shelton's vehicle, Sheldon said.

Prior to the settlement with Great West Casualty Co., the insurer made an initial offer of \$11,000, topping out at \$40,000 before the suit was filed, Sheldon said.

Defense attorney Ted Perryman, who represented Wade and the trucking comment, declined to comment on those details – but did offer faint praise to this opponent.

"If he thinks he got a great settlement, who am I to rain on his parade?" Perryman said.

\$250,000 SETTLEMENT MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

Venue: St. Louis County Circuit Court

Case Number/Date: 23SL-CC03505 April 10, 2024

Caption: Michael Koch v. Success Truck Leasing, Inc., Donald Wade

Plaintiff's Attorneys: Michael Sheldon (lead) and Gary Burger; Burger Law, St Louis

Defendant's Attorneys: Mark Grilliot (lead) and Ted Perryman; Roberts Perryman, St. Louis

Injuries: head, brain, neck, back, spine, shoulder, arm, elbow, wrist, hand

Injuries detail: Lacerations at multiple locations on arm; concussion; neck and back injuries. Permanent arm (including scarring) and brain injuries.