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LAW BULLETIN MEDIA

Woman settles suit over crash for \$3M

CTA driver was hurt taking motorcycle course at college

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A former CTA bus driver whose knee was injured in an accident while she was riding a motorcycle received a \$3 million settlement.

In June 2018, Sharrice Vance took part in a beginner motorcycle course organized by Harper College at South Suburban College's parking lot.

When riding through the course, Vance was braking in preparation for a turn when her motorcycle rode over a "defective and unreasonably dangerous area of the premises," according to the complaint.

The complaint described it as "an area of pavement under repair with torn-up concrete and a layer of loose gravel on top."

Vance's motorcycle skidded

out from under her and she fell on the pavement, landing on her left side, according to the complaint.

After being transported to South Suburban Hospital, she was diagnosed with a fracture and tears to her ACL, MCL and lateral meniscus.

Vance had physical therapy, pain treatment and eventually required surgery, according to the complaint.

In 2019, she sued Harper College and South Suburban College in Cook County Circuit Court, alleging negligence and premises liability.

Jordan S. Powell of Passen & Powell was Vance's lead attorney.

He said that despite a successful surgical repair, Vance, now 39, developed nerve injury and chronic regional pain syndrome and required a neurostimulator implant.

He said the settlement will help with past and future medical care, in addition to compensating her for lost wages.



Jordan S. Powell



Matthew A. Passen

"[Vance would] prefer to be back the way she was prior, working as a CTA bus driver and living her life," he said. "But she recognizes that this amount of money will hopefully make up for those lost wages and move on, get the treatment she needs to continue to hopefully return to the workforce."

Faustin A. Pipal Jr. of Resolute Systems mediated the case.

The settlement was reached June 8, and Judge Melissa A. Durkin of Cook County Circuit

Court dismissed the case the following day.

Matthew A. Passen of Passen & Powell also represented Vance.

Michael E. Kujawa and Jonathon R. Sommerfeld of Schain Banks Kenny & Schwartz Ltd. represented the defendants. They could not be reached for comment, nor could a Harper College spokesperson.

The case is *Vance v. William Rainey Harper College and South Suburban College*, No. 19 L 4463.