

\$500,000 AUTO ACCIDENT SETTLEMENT

Libertyville attorney Douglas Rallo has reached a \$500,000 personal injury settlement for a Buffalo Grove resident who claimed that her pre-existing low back problems were worsened in a rush hour car accident on Route 53. The claimant already had spondylolisthesis (a condition where one of the spinal bones did not line up properly over the other), and had received multiple chiropractic treatments for severe radiating back pain before the accident. "The defense hired two prominent Chicago doctors to testify that my client merely sprained her back in the accident," said Rallo. The defense also disputed the claim because the accident occurred at very low speed, there was little or no damage to the cars, there was no obvious injury at the scene and the MRIs did not show any new injury to the spine. Rallo noted that the medical treatment was conservative --- therapy and medications --- but no surgery was ever performed. "Cases like this can be difficult to win" according to Rallo, "since there was no objective evidence of an injury; only the claimant's statements that her pain got worse after the accident. Juries usually want hard evidence of an injury to award damages". To refute the insurance company doctors Rallo obtained the testimony of expert orthopaedic surgeons to explain how the structures of the spine can be damaged in low speed accidents, and why the damage cannot be seen on MRI scans or x-rays. "My experts advised us that there are nerve receptors in the cartilage of the disks which can become inflamed and painful. Since the bony structures of someone who has spondylolisthesis leave less room for the nerves to exit the spine, the inflamed and enlarged cartilage is compressed, causing nerve irritation down the leg. This can be caused by slight trauma, such as low velocity auto impacts," according to Rallo.

"Our hard work enabled me to find top medical experts to explain complex scientific concepts, which was a key to obtaining a half million dollar settlement for this union shipping manager," Rallo said.

\$200,000 SETTLEMENT FOR FRACTURED ANKLE

A 63-year-old Highland Park resident has received a \$200,000 settlement for a broken ankle she received when she was struck by a car in Wilmette. According to her lawyer, Douglas Rallo of Libertyville, the woman was crossing the road to go to a store in the Eden's Plaza shopping center. "A car came down the parking aisle and the driver didn't look carefully enough to notice my client before turning left and striking her", said Rallo.

Although surgery was required to fix the fracture, the woman made an excellent recovery and returned to work full time as a nurse.

INJURED PEDESTRIAN RECEIVES \$200,000 SETTLEMENT

Allstate Insurance Company has paid \$200,000 to settle a lawsuit brought by attorney Douglas Rallo for an injured 64 year old pedestrian. "My client was in a marked crosswalk entering the Dominick's food store. A driver came to a stop at the stop sign but then pulled forward and struck the pedestrian, knocking him to the ground," said Rallo. X-rays taken at the hospital revealed pre-existing left hip arthritis that was so severe it warranted hip replacement surgery even before the occurrence took place, according to his attorney. The defense doctor gave a deposition for trial where he testified that the hip was not injured in the accident and that the pedestrian only sustained bruises, sprains and strains. However, the law in Illinois allows a person to be compensated where a pre-existing condition is worsened or aggravated by another person's negligence. "The defense vigorously denied liability through nearly 2 years of litigation, but I convinced them that I was prepared to go to trial and prove that the hip was injured in the accident," said Rallo. The defense finally admitted fault and offered to pay \$200,000 on the day before trial.

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News From Law Offices of Douglas Rallo, P.C.

\$200,000 SETTLEMENT FOR BOATERS KNEE INJURY

Dangerous conditions on private property can expose the property owner to legal liability if it causes someone to be injured, according to attorney Douglas Rallo of Libertyville. "In an interesting case I handled, my client and her friends were moving a boat across the lock between Long Lake and Squaw Creek. The pier had a rotten, weak area of old wood. Even though she saw it and knew of its condition, she put her foot right next to it; the wood gave way and her leg fell through the hole, injuring her knee". This case raised a major issue of contributory negligence. "In negligence cases, the jury has to decide if the defendant was negligent. But they also decide if the injured plaintiff was negligent. This is called 'contributory negligence'", said Rallo. "If the jury finds that the plaintiff was more than 50% at fault for her own injuries, the plaintiff gets nothing. Here, the defense argued that my client knew of the rotten wood, realized there was a danger, and deliberately stepped right next to it, making her more than 50% at fault and entitled to nothing. Despite that argument, I uncovered evidence that the property owners knew of the dangerous condition before the accident and failed to make timely repairs. With evidence that the property owner could have avoided the accident, I was able to reach a \$200,000 settlement for my client."

DOUGLAS RALLO SPEAKS TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Douglas Rallo was an invited guest speaker at a recent business symposium at the Blue Island Chamber of Commerce. Rallo spoke on workers compensation law. A multitude of other topics were discussed, including gangs in the workplace, equity in wages, sexual harassment, identity theft and check fraud. "I am honored to have been asked to speak, along with representatives from the Illinois Attorney General, Cook County State's Attorney, and other experts," said Rallo.

\$130,000 SETTLEMENT FOR SENIOR CITIZEN

A 66 year old Glenview woman has received a \$130,000 personal injury settlement, reports her Libertyville attorney Douglas Rallo. "In winter, a construction company was rehabbing an apartment building on Sheridan Road in Highland Park and discharged water on to the sidewalk, where it froze. My client was not able realize it was a thin sheet of ice she walked on, as opposed to wet pavement", he said. She slipped and fell, injuring her hip. "Even though there were no witnesses and the company denied discharging water on to the sidewalk, I located a document that contradicted its position, and this made settlement the best option".

DOUGLAS RALLO SELECTED FOR "WHO'S WHO"

Douglas Rallo has been honored by being selected for the prestigious Marquis *Who's Who in American Law*. This is the 7th time that Mr. Rallo has been chosen for this publication, which is based on "significant achievement" within the legal profession.

Mr. Rallo has also been selected for the 5th consecutive year in *Who's Who in America*.

Douglas Rallo is an experienced personal injury trial lawyer, with concentration in the following areas:

- Auto Accidents
- Worker's Compensation
- Wrongful Death Cases
- Dog Bites
- All Serious Personal Injury Cases

- FREE CONSULTATION -
- FEES CONTINGENT UPON RECOVERY -

Email questions to rallolaw@yahoo.com