



**CAMBRIDGE**  
PROPERTY & CASUALTY

**LARGE MICHIGAN JURY VERDICTS AND SETTLEMENTS  
SINCE 1998**

01/14/1998	\$1,325,000	<u>Sollena v. Four Seasons Radiator Service</u> (Auto) The plaintiffs were rear ended by a dump truck driven by a radiator service employee. Two weeks after the accident, it was determined that the plaintiff had a herniated disk.
01/29/1998	\$6,200,000	<u>Collins v. Clarklift</u> (Products Liability) This was an accident caused by forklift because of a failed backup alarm.
02/01/1998	\$1,175,000	<u>Gremo v. Spectrum Finishing</u> (Products Liability) The plaintiff was working as a machinist on a construction job at Spectrum's factory in Mount Clemens. His boss, a subcontractor on the project, was using a 23-year-old Caterpillar forklift truck to hoist a 300 lb. shaft. One of the forks slid off the end of the carriage and struck the plaintiff on the top of the head, penetrating his skull. A safety device on the forklift truck that held down forks was corroded and inoperable.
02/20/1998	\$1,160,000	<u>Burns v. City of Detroit</u> (Employment Practices) This case involved constructive discharge and sexual harassment.
03/06/1998	\$1,600,000	<u>Burns v. U.S. Cycles, Inc.</u> (Auto) This case involved a collision of two automobiles in which both drivers were killed. It was established that one of the drivers was intoxicated.
03/11/1998	\$1,735,000	<u>Burden v. TMP Associative</u> (Products Liability) This was a negligence action involving claims against the defendants for their collective failure in the design and maintenance of a sledding hill located in the city of Wayne.
04/02/1998	\$1,500,000	<u>Martin v. Dupont</u> (Employment Practices) This case involved wrongful discharge because of age.
05/01/1998	\$2,300,000	<u>John Doe v. State of Michigan</u> (Auto) This was an automobile accident. It was alleged that the defendant, the State of Michigan, failed to properly mark the exit from I-96.
05/19/1998	\$3,750,000	<u>Jane Doe v. ABC Trucking Company</u> (Auto) This was a semi-truck/car rear end accident resulting in instant death.

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05/20/1998	\$1,580,000	<u>Herbruck Poultry Ranch v. Fleck Controls</u> (Premises) This was a products liability case involving the control valve of a water treatment system which was manufactured by the defendant. As a result of the failure of this valve, within a few days, 22 miles of water pipe was contaminated that supplied drinking water to 500,000 laying hens. As a result, 9,000 birds perished.
06/01/1998	\$2,900,000	<u>Davis v. City of Detroit</u> (Auto) This was a motor vehicle accident occurring when a car struck a pothole and flew across the median which caused a head-on collision and killed the plaintiff.
06/16/1998	\$1,000,000	<u>Rank v. City of Coldwater</u> (Auto) The plaintiff suffered injury in an automobile/pickup truck accident. The defendant City of Coldwater employed the utility worker who caused the accident.
07/01/1998	\$1,000,000	<u>Singleton v. First Independent</u> (Premises) This case involved a fire that resulted in the death of six people from smoke and soot inhalation. No smoke detectors, which were required by city ordinance, had been installed.
07/11/1998	\$1,470,000	<u>Doe v. Roe</u> (Auto) This was a motor vehicle accident in which a 72-year-old dance instructor was involved in a rear end motor vehicle collision and was injured.
08/17/1998	\$1,500,000	<u>Poupore v. J. L. Sherk</u> (Products Liability) This was an accident which resulted in a closed head injury to the plaintiff. Sherk was a sheet metal contractor that designed a system to lift a large ventilation fan from the ground floor to the roof of an office building under construction.
09/09/1998	\$2,000,000	<u>John Doe v. Delauter</u> (Employment Practices) This was an injury action brought on behalf of six mentally impaired women who were raped over a 4-year period by the co-director of an adult foster care facility due to lax training policies and procedures.
09/22/1998	\$1,340,000	<u>Novis v. General Motors</u> (Products Liability) This was a products liability case involving a seat back failure in an automobile.
11/24/1998	\$1,250,000	<u>Delraso v. General Nutrition Corporation</u> (Employment Practices) The defendant was a large retail health food chain with 26 stores in Michigan. During a 2 ½ year period, the company fired 10 store managers, all of whom were women. The plaintiff was one of the women involved and was able to establish an atmosphere of age and gender hostility and discrimination.

12/1998	\$1,150,000	<u>Name of case was confidential</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was turning left when she was hit by a van heading through a light. The plaintiff's child was sitting in the back seat and was killed instantly.
12/07/1998	\$2,360,000	<u>McGovern v. Walbridge Aldinger Company</u> (Products Liability) This was an injury to a plumber who was electrocuted while working on a jobsite.
12/08/1998	\$3,000,000	<u>Tuck v. Warren Consolidated Schools</u> (Auto) This was an accident caused by a wheelchair that was not secured properly in a bus.
12/11/1998	\$1,150,000	<u>Benejam v. Detroit Tigers</u> (Premises) In this case, the plaintiff was injured by a baseball in a baseball stadium.
01/1999	\$920,000	<u>John Doe v. Jack Doe</u> (Premises) The plaintiff, a 42-year-old contractor, was biking on a trail of land adjacent to a subdivision in northern Macomb County. He fell into a partially camouflaged hole that was dug by several children in the neighborhood. They had been using it for motocross jumping. It was claimed that the defendant owner did not fall under the protection of the recreational use act for the reason that it was not left in its natural state. The children were insured under their respective homeowners insurance policies, and several carriers jointed in the settlement.
01/04/1999	\$2,000,000	<u>Doe v. ABC Trucking</u> (Auto) This accident resulted when a truck owned by ABC Trucking rear ended a pickup truck driven by the 16-year-old plaintiff. The plaintiff died as a result of his injuries, and his father suffered a severe back injury. The mother and sister of the plaintiff heard the accident from approximately 150 feet away from the impact area and ran up to the accident scene. The extrication took one hour for the father and three hours for the fatally injured son.
01/15/1999	\$12,200,000	<u>O'Connor v. Adamczyk</u> (Watercraft) The 31-year-old plaintiff O'Connor drowned after falling into the water while he was a passenger on a small fishing boat.
01/29/1999	\$1,600,000	<u>Groestic v. Agco Corporation</u> (Products Liability) This farmer was impaled by machinery attached to a farm tractor. The tractor was manufactured by an Italian company. The U.S. distributor of the tractor, Agco Corporation, was found liable for the failure to warn of hazards associated with the use of this tractor.
02/02/1999	\$33,000,000	<u>Abramczyk v. City of Southgate</u> (Employment Practices) For more than a year, the City of Southgate's Fire Chief was recording the calls of firefighters, a total of more than 400 conversations. This was a violation of state eavesdropping laws, the Michigan constitution,

whistleblower laws, public policy, and invasion of privacy. One of the plaintiffs also alleged intentional infliction of emotional distress.

02/03/1999	\$1,000,000	<u>Singh v. Dyck</u> (Auto) Singh was an 80-year-old retired man from Farmington. He was hit and instantly killed by a Canadian man picking up supplies for a Canadian building company in a small truck leased from Ryder.
02/05/1999	\$1,250,000	<u>Stanton v. Stanton</u> (Auto) Sharron Stanton was killed in a motor vehicle collision. An employee of the defendant drove a company owned vehicle through a stop sign and collided with the decedent's vehicle.
02/08/1999	\$2,500,000	<u>Engleman v. Warack Trucking</u> (Auto) The plaintiff Engleman was in a passenger pickup truck traveling to Lapeer County. An asphalt trailer owned by the defendant traveling in the opposite direction had a shock absorber mounting bracket fall off due to a failed weld. It struck the plaintiff in the head.
02/18/1999	\$1,700,000	<u>Skowronski v. Gorski</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was a passenger in a vehicle driven by the defendant. The defendant Gorski was involved in an accident in which the vehicle left the roadway and flipped. The plaintiff was ejected, crushing his vertebrae. Another passenger was ejected and died.
03/29/1999	\$1,290,000	<u>Boersen v. Hamilton Farm Bureau</u> (Premises) A 24-year-old farmer was delivering grain to a commercial elevator when he was trapped in an auger for 90 minutes. His lower leg was torn off.
04/01/1999	\$1,200,000	<u>Guglielnetti v. Pittsburgh Corning Corp.</u> (Premises) The plaintiff was exposed to asbestos in the 1960s at a General Motors Cadillac plant in Detroit.
04/01/1999	\$2,350,000	<u>Ivezaj v. Roose</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was driving on I-275 near 6 Mile Road in the city of Livonia. A construction crew was filling potholes in the roadway. The plaintiff reduced speed and was then struck from behind by a fully loaded semi-truck driven by the defendant. Witnesses indicated that the semi was repeatedly weaving from the right lane onto the shoulder. Also, despite federal regulations requiring it, the defended driver was not carrying a loaded fire extinguisher in his vehicle. The plaintiff suffered third degree burns to her face and hands as well as fractures on the left side of her face.
04/07/1999	\$1,900,000	<u>Griffith v. Weidenbach</u> (Auto) This case involved a back injury as a result of a motor vehicle accident.
05/21/1999	\$1,700,000	<u>Roney v. Cotton</u> (Employment Practices) This was a gender harassment case involving loss of earnings and

		benefits because of constructive discharge and psychiatric damages involving 10 employees.
06/30/1999	\$2,000,000	<u>Estate of Levi v. Vanacek</u> (Premises) This case involved the furnishing of an incompetent operator and defective equipment in a rental crane. A wire rope cable carrying the steel beam at a construction site broke, dropping the beam on the plaintiff and killing him.
07/01/1999	\$1,200,000	<u>Diehl v. Hayes</u> (Auto) Following a car crash, the plaintiff was diagnosed with a concussion and sent home. Six weeks later, an MRI disclosed the presence of a subdural hematoma.
07/13/1999	\$1,245,000	<u>Goncalves v. Department of Corrections</u> (Employment Practices) The plaintiff alleged economic and non-economic damages as a result of employment retaliation.
07/20/1999	\$1,400,000	<u>Meyers v. Wal-Mart</u> (Premises) This case arose out of a fall on 7/7/1997 when the 65-year-old plaintiff, accompanied by his wife, went to a Sam's Club store in Southgate. The plaintiff slipped on a loose cardboard box, tripped over the box, fell to the ground and sustained injury to his hip.
08/12/1999	\$3,600,000	<u>Chase v. Department of Natural Resources</u> (Auto) The plaintiff and his son were stopped to make a turn into a yard sale when their vehicle was struck in the rear by a truck being driven by an on-duty Department of Natural Resources officer. The collision caused a gasoline fire. The plaintiff's son was burned alive, and the plaintiff sustained second and third degree burns over 1/2 his body in a futile effort to save his son.
08/31/1999	\$1,840,000	<u>Dale v. Overhead Door Corporation</u> (Products Liability) This was a product liability case involving injuries caused by an overhead door and its improper installation.
09/30/1999	\$1,500,000	<u>Feko v. Cummings</u> (Auto) This was an automobile accident in which the plaintiff died while riding his bicycle on the shoulder of a road. He was struck by a pickup truck operated by defendant Cummings while in the course of his employment.
10/07/1999	\$4,420,000	<u>John Doe v. Jack Doe</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was an unbelted passenger in the bed of a pickup truck when the driver lost control and drove the truck into a ditch and culvert. There was evidence that the driver had been drinking.
10/07/1999	\$1,800,000	<u>Keene v. Acme Building Materials</u> (Premises) In 1993, the plaintiff fell 22 feet during the construction of the defendant's new office and showroom. The fall rendered Keene

paralyzed from the waist down. Keene was working without fall protection, which the plaintiff argued was required by federal OSHA standards. The defendant acted as its own general contractor.

10/25/1999	\$1,162,000	<u>Brusseau v. Daykin Electric Corporation</u> (Premises) This case involved the creation of a mound of snow above a truck well, leading to the loading dock of the defendant. The plaintiff attempted to overcome the hazard but was injured. The defendant admitted that it expected the delivery and needed it for its business purpose. The jury concluded that the defendant had a duty to clear the dock area from hazards, such as snow accumulation, and make its premises reasonably safe for invitees, such as the plaintiff.
10/28/1999	\$45,000,000	<u>Gilford v. Detroit Edison</u> (Employment Practices) 1,400 current and former Detroit Edison employees alleged termination, demotion, denial of promotion, transfer to hostile work environment, and other adverse actions arising out of corporate reorganizations occurring in 1992 and continuing through 1995.
11/04/1999	\$4,250,000	<u>Finni v. General Motors</u> (Auto) The plaintiff suffered a closed head injury as a result of the negligence of a car driven by a General Motors employee.
11/08/1999	\$1,020,000	<u>Jane Doe v. ABC Canadian Trucking Company</u> (Auto) In this motor vehicle accident, a blunt trauma to the plaintiff's left eye destroyed that eye.
11/29/1999	\$1,677,000	<u>Villalon v. Shaw</u> (Auto) This was a traumatic brain injury as a result of an automobile accident. The plaintiff was injured when the defendant failed to yield at a rural intersection. The defendant was driving a vehicle provided for his use by this employer.
12/16/1999	\$3,000,000	<u>Cavalier Manufacturing v. Employers Insurance</u> (Products Liability) The plaintiff suffered a crush injury to both hands with subsequent bilateral amputation of both hands while operating a power press in the course of her employment. This was a product liability claim which involved an intentional tort action against her employer for requiring her to work a power press they knew it was unsafe.
01/21/2000	\$6,500,000	<u>John Doe v. ABC Corporation</u> (Auto) This case involved the death of a 28-year-old married father of three who was killed when he was a passenger in a motor vehicle that left the road at a high rate of speed, striking a tree. The driver had a .18 blood alcohol level.
05/09/2000	\$7,940,000	<u>Jackson v. Michigan Brick</u> (Products Liability) The defendant negligently hired an entity to repair natural gas leaks and failed to properly purge the lines, resulting in an explosion, and failed to warn the plaintiffs regarding its negligence.

03/05/2001	\$1,600,000	<u>Carmona v. B &amp; R Mobile Homes</u> (Premises) This was a slip-and-fall case. The plaintiff was a restaurant owner, which required him to be on his feet 12-16 hours per day/6 days per week. As a result of this fall, he was unable to perform his duties.
03/14/2001	\$1,932,000	<u>Giordano v. Pacheco</u> (Auto) The plaintiff's closed head injury was not diagnosed until almost two years after what was described as a minor car crash. The plaintiff was able to work for 10 months following the car crash and at the time of trial was claiming disability from any further employment.
03/29/2001	\$2,632,000	<u>Dyson v. Formula K Family Fun Parks</u> (Premises) Plaintiffs were part of a group of Western Michigan University business students who visited this amusement park. One of the attractions of the park was a 30 foot tall inflatable slide. The manufacturer warned that there should be two trained attendants to supervise the users of the slide at all times and that serious injury would result to patrons if too many people were allowed to the top of the side at the same time. Contrary to the manufacturer's warnings, the defendant manned the slide with one teenage attendant who allowed nine students to the top of the slide at the same time. The slide collapsed beneath the students who then fell 25 to 30 feet onto the cement pad below them.
07/02/2001	\$8,500,000	<u>Waldorf v. Fraternal Order of Eagles</u> (Premises) In 1997, the plaintiff was at a bachelor party at the Eagles' hall off of Hoover Road south of 9 Mile Road in Warren. A fight broke out. The fight started upstairs and then escalated outside in a parking lot with 20 to 25 people involved. Bartenders waited 30 minutes before they notified police to break up the fight. The plaintiff was injured when a tire iron was thrown at him, injuring his left eye.
08/27/2001	\$12,000,000	<u>Caines v. Marathon Oil</u> (Pollution) The plaintiff filed a class action suit alleging that the defendant discharged noxious odors into the surrounding residential communities as a result of its industrial operations, causing a diminution of market value, loss of use of property, and loss of employment of property.
10/30/2001	\$1,091,979	<u>Schmaltz v. Greystone Builders</u> (Premises) The plaintiffs, Schmaltz and Smith, were employed as carpenters for a subcontractor involved in commercial construction in Novi. Greystone was the general contractor. The plaintiffs were installing exterior drywall, which required a man-lift to raise them approximately 30 feet in the air. On one occasion, they raised their lift up to 30 feet when all of a sudden the machine fell backward and both men fell to the ground inside the basket of the lift, suffering severe injuries. It was alleged that the ground surface where they had to work the lift was too uneven and needed to be graded.
2002	\$5,175,000	<u>Doe v. YXZ Trucking Company</u> (Auto) This claim arose as a result of an accident which resulted in the

permanent disability of the plaintiff, a 37-year-old man, who sustained a closed head injury, rib fractures, and other internal injuries. The accident occurred at approximately 10:45 p.m. in February on the ramp from southbound Telegraph to southbound I-75 in Taylor. The plaintiff was a passenger in a jeep driven by his brother-in-law who lost control of the vehicle on slippery pavement and struck a retaining wall adjacent to the two-lane roadway and became disabled. The truck and semi-trailer owned by the defendant trucking company and operated by the defendant truck driver struck the jeep while it was disabled with the plaintiff and the driver still inside. The impact caused significant damage to the jeep and caused it travel into a ravine next to the freeway. The plaintiff learned that the operator of the truck had not taken the required time off at the time of the accident and was over hours in violation of federal motor carrier regulations. The truck was traveling at a high rate of speed for the existing conditions.

01/2002	\$6,500,000	<p><u>Family v. Corporation</u> (Auto) A Michigan newlywed husband and wife were stopped for construction on the highway when they were rear ended by a corporate salesperson driving at 70 miles per hour. The plaintiffs were seriously injured.</p>
01/2002	\$4,225,000	<p><u>Wood v. Otto</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was operating a truck and was traveling westbound on Michigan Avenue when he encountered the vehicle operated by the defendant, Barbara Otto, who was proceeding eastbound in the wrong direction. The plaintiff lost control of his truck, which rolled onto its side, slid off the highway and into a tree. The plaintiff died at the scene of the accident. Comerica Bank was named as a defendant because the defendant driver was in the course and scope of her employment at the time of the accident. The defendant driver admitted responsibility.</p>
01/03/2002	\$1,250,000	<p><u>Hayford v. Lesner</u> (Auto) The 19-year-old plaintiff was a restrained front seat passenger in a 1999 GMC Yukon owned by William Lesner and driven by his 18-year-old daughter, Heidi. The girls were best friends and were returning to Taylor University in Indiana on January 30, 2000. Lesner, the driver, lost control on a snowy road. The vehicle left the roadway and slid into an overpass abutment. Hayford was still alive at the scene but was pronounced dead at the hospital about an hour after the crash. She never regained consciousness. The owner of the vehicle was a GM executive who carried \$5,000,000 excess liability coverage as a benefit of his employment. However, the policy required that the insured maintain at least \$250,000 in primary coverage. In this case, the owner only had \$50,000 in coverage, leaving a \$200,000 gap.</p>
01/18/2002	\$5,000,000	<p><u>Gutherie v. United States of America</u> (Auto) A 32-year-old woman and 7-year-old child were killed en route to a family picnic on Memorial Day in 1999 when the driver of a Michigan National Guard truck lost control of his vehicle during a rainstorm, crossed the center line, and hit them head on.</p>

02/25/2002	\$1,000,000	<u>Harris v. Francisco</u> (Auto) Guy Harris, a groomsman in the wedding of defendant Francisco's son, left the wedding reception with two other men in Francisco's two-seat Corvette. They had been drinking. Harris was not driving. The Corvette left the roadway in excess of 80 miles per hour and flipped, ejecting all occupants, none of whom were wearing seatbelts. The defendant claims that the car was taken without permission. The other two passengers of the vehicle claim the other was driving.
03/01/2002	\$1,250,000	<u>Roush v. Federal Express Supply Chain</u> (Auto) The plaintiff, a divorced mother of two children, was rear ended by the defendant's semi-truck driver. She was killed within seconds of the accident. The defendant admitted liability.
04/23/2002	\$1,300,000	<u>Schomaker v. Demaria Building Company</u> (Premises) An iron worker on the first floor of a three-story apartment rehab project was injured by a falling brick. Demaria Construction was the prime contractor for the work on the outside of the building.
05/30/2002	\$4,500,000	<u>Estate of Danielle Marie Bankhead v. Power Vac Corp.</u> (Auto) The decedent and her brother were passengers in a neighbor's minivan traveling eastbound on the Jefferies Freeway. A street sweeper, which was not sweeping, stopped to assist a disabled motorist, blocking the full right lane. The minivan struck the street sweeper, killing the 7-year-old girl.
10/21/2002	\$1,125,000	<u>Baker v. James Auto Sales</u> (Auto) Nathaniel Kitchen was a single 20-year-old who lived at home with his mother and younger siblings. He died as a result of injury sustained while riding a bicycle when he was struck from behind by a vehicle driven by a 60-year-old who was high on marijuana.
12/10/2002	\$1,249,000	<u>Dozeman v. Dryfhout</u> (Auto) The defendant's garbage truck rolled through a stop sign into the path of the 43-year-old plaintiff who struck the garbage truck broadside. The plaintiff suffered a right pelvic fracture, a nose fracture and teeth fractures.
01/09/2003	\$1,925,000	<u>Johnson v. A &amp; M Custom Built Homes</u> (Premises) The plaintiff was employed to deliver roofing shingles to a new home under construction at a large subdivision. Suit was instituted against the general contractor, landowner and the rough carpenter subcontractor. It was alleged that the rough carpenter failed to nail the roof toe boards into the roof trusses but instead nailed the toe boards into the 3/8 inch thick roof sheeting. As the plaintiff came sliding down the roof with his leg extended, the toe board gave way when the plaintiff's foot came into contact with it.
Summer 2003	\$16,000,000	<u>John Doe v. Anonymous Trucking Company</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was an out-of-state resident and was the last in line of

several vehicles that were stopped for construction on a major highway. The defendant truck driver drove into the back of the plaintiff's stopped vehicle at a high rate of speed. Due to the defendant's negligence, the plaintiff suffered a burst fracture with spinal cord injury and was rendered a tetraplegic.

06/2003	\$1,400,000	<u>Southerland v. Fyock</u> (Auto) Southerland was a pedestrian who was crossing Plymouth Road near Cavell Road in Livonia. Fyock entered the left turn lane of eastbound Plymouth Road and immediately struck the plaintiff who was standing in the left hand turn lane. The plaintiff suffered severe head trauma, fractured skull, eye trauma and other injuries.
06/10/2003	\$3,325,000	<u>Koeller v. Lanaville</u> (Auto) This case involved a 36-year-old nurse who was driving alone when an oncoming truck and trailer approached the curb in the opposite direction. The truck driver applied the breaks and the trailer tires locked up and skidded, swinging the trailer across the center line and striking the plaintiff's car and killing her instantly. The plaintiff sued the driver and the owner of the truck for negligent driving and speeding as well as the dealer that sold the trailer for negligence in instructing the owner on how to properly hook up the anti-lock break system to the electrical power source in the truck. The anti-lock break system did not function in this skid out, which contributed to the accident. The manufacturer of the trailer was also sued due to a deficient operator's manual in which it did not properly diagram the electrical hook up. The manufacturer was also sued for negligent design in the location of a flashing warning light at the rear of the trailer which could not been seen from the driver's seat of the truck in the event of a break system malfunction.
07/11/2003	\$3,150,000	<u>Bristow v. Pittman</u> (Auto) The 18-year-old plaintiff was walking on the left side the road in his neighborhood when he was struck from behind by a truck owned by Michigan International Speedway (MIS). It was dark, snowing and slushy. The truck's owner had provided the truck to its employee, Mankee, for his employment and personal use. Pittman took the MIS truck without the permission of Mankee. The plaintiff sued Pittman and Mankee for negligent entrustment in giving the truck to his drunken friend. MIS, the owner, was sued for malfunctioning breaks, which were examined and tested by a break engineer and a master mechanic.
07/14/2003	\$1,600,000	<u>Burke v. Miller</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was a passenger in an automobile that was eastbound on M-21 near Lowell. A car owned by the State of Michigan rear ended and ran over the vehicle in which the plaintiff was riding. The truck weighed approximately 26,000 pounds and was loaded with laundry. The plaintiff had a brain injury.
09/08/2003	\$2,000,000	<u>Papalas v. Ford Motor Company</u> (Premises) The plaintiff was working as an industrial painter for a subcontractor.

During a power outage, he fell through an improperly covered hole and landed 28 feet below on the concrete basement floor. The defendant Ford Motor Company was liable for no emergency or exit lights. The construction manager, Walbridge Aldenger, was liable for allowing an improperly covered hole in a common work area.

09/09/2003	\$1,100,000	<p><u>Name of case confidential</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was proceeding in their vehicle westbound in Wexford County. A truck owned by North Star and being driven by its employee was in the eastbound lane. The employee failed to yield the right of way when making a left turn into a driveway and he drove his truck directly into the path of the plaintiff's vehicle. The plaintiff's injuries required six surgeries over 18 months.</p>
10/23/2003	\$1,300,000	<p><u>Gregory v. Andoni</u> (Auto) This was an automobile accident case. The defendant made a left turn into oncoming traffic and collided with the plaintiff.</p>
11/20/2003	\$1,250,000	<p><u>Jaunese v. Edward Rose Company</u> (Premises) The plaintiff Stiger was an inexperienced 17-year-old laborer working on a three-story apartment building at heights in excess of 30 feet. The defendant Edward Rose Development Company owned the complex of apartment buildings. The plaintiff claimed that the defendant Manifold Services was acting as a general contractor for the project. On the day of the accident, Stiger was climbing down a ladder, slipped and fell to the balcony (which was approximately 6 feet), bounced and then rolled off the balcony and down to the ground which was an additional 20 feet below. The plaintiff argued that the general contractor failed to take reasonable steps within the general contractor's supervisory and coordinating authority to guard against avoidable dangers.</p>
01/2004	\$1,600,000	<p><u>Scott v. Road Commission for the County of Oakland</u> (Employment Practices) This case involved racial harassment. The supervisor in question told racial jokes and referred to employees using the "N" word. The supervisor also kept a surveillance notebook on the activities of African American employees only and treated African American employees harshly.</p>
02/12/2004	\$1,250,000	<p><u>Amos v. RTI Transport, Inc.</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was rear ended by a chain collision caused by a tractor trailer rig as she sat at a red traffic light. She was disabled by the accident as a result of a closed head injury.</p>
09/30/2004	\$9,000,000	<p><u>Rumfield v. Nehenney</u> (Auto) The defendant minor, Heaney, unlawfully purchased beer from the defendant's store. After drinking five or more of these beers, he negligently drove a truck owned by his father, defendant Brian Heaney. Driving at an excessive rate of speed, defendant Matthew Heaney crashed into the rear of a pickup truck owned and operated by 23-year-</p>

old Jeffery Rumfield in which Daniel Rumfield, Jeffery's 17-year-old bother, was a passenger. As a result of the rear end collision, the Rumfield truck violently impacted against a cement bridge abutment. Daniel Rumfield survived the rear end collision and was conscious but was killed upon impact with the bridge abutment. Jeffery Rumfield survived and was conscious following the rear end collision but was rendered unconscious upon impact with the bridge abutment. He fell into the creek below the bridge, was submerged, and nearly drowned.

07/29/2004	\$8,100,000	<p><u>Rupersberg v. Etkin, et al.</u> (Premises) This case involved the construction site accident at the Marriot Hotel on Opdyke Road near I-75. The general managing contractor was defendant A.J. Etkin. The plaintiff was working as a journeyman electrician for a subcontractor. A crane load being directed by defendant Wahaley Steel was blown onto a guard rail post on the perimeter of the 9th floor. The 22 lb. guardrail post was knocked off and fell nine stories where it struck the plaintiff's head, face, neck and shoulders.</p>
12/14/2004	\$1,500,000	<p><u>Liptow v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was hit by a car while in North Carolina. As the result of the crash, she lived as a quadriplegic for eight years and subsequently died.</p>
03/17/2005	\$1,400,000	<p><u>Kelley v. Farhad</u> (Defamation) The defendant employee wrote untruthful letters about the plaintiff and emailed them to hundreds of individuals and entities, including the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press. The defendant called the plaintiff a lunatic, mentally ill, vengeance seeking, and a criminal. It was determined that the defendant's statements about the plaintiff were false.</p>
03/28/2005	\$1,200,000	<p><u>Ulsh v. Pine Air Construction</u> (Premises) This personal injury case arose out of a construction site accident caused by the improper use of a rough terrain forklift by an untrained, uncertified operator.</p>
04/2005	\$1,270,000	<p><u>McGrady v. Cooper Tools</u> (Products Liability) The plaintiff was a 51-year-old skilled tradesman who was working at a stamping plant. His skull and jaw were fractured when a massive industrial crane/hook failed catastrophically while at work. The plaintiff was in the process of lifting an 84,000 lb. die when suddenly without warning two of the four hooks attached the to die fractured. The hook struck the plaintiff's head with a tremendous force, throwing him into the air. He landed on the concrete floor and was rendered unconscious. The catastrophic failure of the hooks resulted from a manufacturing and design defect by defendant Cooper Tool Company, which designed, manufactured and distributed these flawed industrial hooks to various automobile facilities.</p>

05/2005	\$925,000	<p><u>Mahaffy v. Maple Creek Apartments</u> (Mold)</p> <p>The plaintiff moved into the Maple Creek Apartments in 1995. She did not observe any water damage to her apartment, although the plastering and paint on the bathroom ceiling was new. She complained to the defendant's management office about black spots that had materialized all over her bathroom; however, nothing was done. The jury awarded her \$925,000 for mold related allergies and asthma.</p>
05/23/2005	\$10,600,000	<p><u>Webber v. Infiniti Broadcasting</u> (Employment Practices)</p> <p>This employee was fired and alleged that it was in retaliation for an EEOC claim. The jury found that the defendant violated state and federal disability laws by failing to accommodate the employee's disabilities, which were caused by the defendant in the first place. The jury found that the company also fired her in retaliation for filing the EEOC claim in violation of state and federal law.</p>
05/31/2005	\$3,450,000	<p><u>Doyon v. Ken's Ready Mix, Inc.</u> (Auto)</p> <p>A grandmother, mother and two minor children were returning from a shopping trip when a cement mixer owned by the defendant corporation crossed the center line and caused a crash. Three of the four occupants in the plaintiff's vehicle died instantly. The 4-year-old plaintiff continued to suffer from serious neurological and orthopedic injuries.</p>
06/09/2005	\$3,800,000	<p><u>Beaudrie v. Dalton</u> (Auto)</p> <p>The plaintiff was a passenger in the vehicle driven by defendant Dalton and owned by defendant Enterprise Leasing Company. It was involved in a single car accident on 8/3/2001. Dalton, while under the influence of an unlawful amount of alcohol, lost control of the vehicles while traveling on I-696. The car left the roadway, drove onto a grass embankment, and rolled over. The plaintiff suffered serious injuries, including severe brain injury, and a multitude of other accident related impairments.</p>
06/10/2005	\$3,000,000	<p><u>Wolfbauer v. Grand Sakwa</u> (Premises)</p> <p>The plaintiff was a 35-year-old executive at Ford with a wife and two young children. The defendant was the developer of a new subdivision. On the day of the accident, the plaintiff was riding his bicycle through the defendant's development in Northville Township looking for new homes. The bike path on which the plaintiff was riding involved curbs, hills and heavy landscaping. Although it had been poured by the defendant the previous week, it remained unfinished with a six inch drop off running along both sides. After the plaintiff crested a steep hill and descended and picked up speed to about 25 miles per hour, he had to negotiate two sets of sharp left and right turns. As a result, the plaintiff was thrown from his bicycle, causing him to land on his head. The resultant injuries consisted of a disc herniation and an incomplete spinal cord injury. Since the accident, the plaintiff has experienced limited use of his arms and can walk but only slowly.</p>

07/22/2005	\$9,000,000	<u>Norris v. Atsalis Brothers Painting</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was a driver who lost both of his legs due to an interstate accident. He was driving his vehicle on I-94 when his vehicle was struck by a vehicle owned by the defendant. The force of the collision pushed the plaintiff into the path of an ongoing tractor trailer.
08/12/2005	\$3,000,000	<u>Man v. Randazzo</u> (Auto) The plaintiff, a 15-year-old high school student, suffered a severe traumatic brain injury when one of his friends, the 16-year-old defendant, purposely drove erratically on snow covered roads. While joy riding, the defendant slid his vehicle at 50 miles per hour through a stop sign and directly into a tree which sliced into the backseat, striking the backseat belted plaintiff in the head.
08/25/2005	\$1,240,336	<u>Miller v. Farm Bureau Insurance</u> (Auto) The plaintiff was a 51-year-old man involved in a pedestrian/ automobile accident resulting in catastrophic injuries, including a traumatic brain injury that caused permanent cognitive injuries and impairments.
09/06/2005	\$1,250,000	<u>Thomas v. Messina Trucking Company, Inc.</u> (Auto) This case involved a rear end collision. The plaintiff suffered a traumatic brain injury with disability from work at a maintenance supervisor.
10/28/2005	\$57,700,000	<u>Hattan v. C.A. Hull Company</u> (Auto) Hattan was employed on a highway construction site. While so employed, he was struck about waist high and knocked over the guard rail and onto the side of an embankment. His pelvis was broken in 19 pieces, his legs were broken in almost as many, his jaw was driven back into his skull, and he suffered massive internal injuries as well as a severe closed head injury and traumatic amputation of a finger. He was comatose for more than 40 days, was on a ventilator for 19 of those days, and suffered and lived with adult respiratory distress syndrome. By the time of the trial, he had more than 60 surgeries. He had lost both of his legs below the knees, he had lost his sexual function, and his jaw was badly compromised. He has a continuing disability from a closed head injury, and his medical bills were approximately \$900,000.
11/07/2005	\$1,260,000	<u>Williamson v. City of Detroit</u> (Premises) This case involved a defective sidewalk in which the optic fiber cover was unsecured and was covered with snow in excess of 30 days. The plaintiff had a fracture to the left shoulder and aggravation of degenerative cervical and lumbar disc disease.
2006	\$1,000,000	<u>Name of case confidential</u> (Premises) A delivery truck driver was helping a forklift operator unload a two ton oxygen tank used by welders. The forklift operator caused the tank to tip onto the plaintiff, smashing his hand and hurting his back. The plaintiff required two surgeries but healed well, except for loss of strength. The plaintiff claimed that his lower back injury was disabling.

01/2006	\$2,000,000	<u>Hepler v. Rowe</u> (Auto) The 66-year-old plaintiff was riding his motorcycle when the defendant made a left turn into the path of the plaintiff's motorcycle. In addition to multiple fractures, the plaintiff received a traumatic brain injury, requiring significant hospitalizations and care after discharge.
01/2006	\$6,800,000	<u>Name of case confidential</u> (Auto) The plaintiff had taken his Jeep Cherokee in for service because there was a recall on the sending unit in the gas tank. The sending unit tells the gas gauge how much fuel is in the tank. One the defendant's employees replaced the recalled sending unit with a sending unit meant for a larger fuel tank, resulting in inaccurate fuel gauge reading. Two days later, the plaintiff was driving on I-696 in a snowstorm when his vehicle ran out of gas, even though the fuel gauge read that the tank was ¼ full. As the plaintiff was stranded on the shoulder of the road, a drunk driver rear ended him. The defendant had a blood alcohol level of .15. The plaintiff suffered a closed head injury and bilateral knee injuries.
01/06/2006	\$2,300,000	<u>Roden v. Knight Transportation</u> (Auto) The decedent Roden was riding his bicycle and was stopped for a red light. When it turned green, he began to cross the street. He collided with a truck being operated by defendant. The plaintiff was wearing his helmet. He suffered fractures and a massive brain injury. He was unconscious for a month. When he regained consciousness, he had no motor control of his body. He received physical and occupational therapy until he suffered a seizure at the end of January of 2005, which created complications that resulted in his death.
02/06/2006	\$1,100,000	<u>Bailer v. Bailer</u> (Auto) The defendant Bailer, the mother of Robert Bailer, owned an insured vehicle carrying \$100,000 primary limits with Farmer's Insurance and an umbrella with Farmer's insurance with a limit of \$1,000,000. The defendant permitted one of her sons' friends to drive her vehicle to take her boys to a paintball game. The driver lost control of the vehicle in an accident. Her son was thrown from the vehicle and rendered an incomplete quadriplegic.
02/23/2006	\$4,100,000	<u>Lotz v. Signature Farms</u> (Premises) This case was a matter of the wrongful death of a mother, father and two young children due to leaking propane gas in their home.
03/2006	\$2,000,000	<u>Name of case confidential</u> (Auto) The plaintiff's 18-year-old son was a belted front seat passenger in a car driven by the defendant driver and owned by the defendant dealership. The defendant drove at speeds of more than 90 miles per hour in the right lane of I-75 in Oakland County. He overtook a tractor trailer traveling 60 miles per hour, waited until the last second to avoid a collision, tried to veer into the next traffic lane, and failed to clear the edge of the truck. The plaintiff's son died instantly of massive head

trauma. The driver suffered minor injuries and was subsequently convicted of negligent homicide and drunk driving.

04/17/2006	\$1,500,000	<p><u>Moss v. Kendallwood Apartments</u> (Premises) The plaintiff was a 42-year-old female emergency room physician for Henry Ford Hospital. On 2/2/2004, she slipped and fell on her way out of the front entrance of her apartment complex. The sidewalk and porch were covered in ice that had formed as a result of ice dams and icicles that extended over the roof over the plaintiff's porch. A freeze/thaw cycle caused the ice to melt and to deposit directly on the porch. The plaintiff was treated and released for a mild concussion and acute cervical strain. Nearly six months after the fall, the plaintiff was evaluated and it was determined that the plaintiff was cognitively impaired and disabled from performing her responsibilities as an emergency room physician.</p>
04/28/2006	\$2,430,000	<p><u>Auenshine v. Troy School District</u> (Employment Practices) The plaintiff, a 37-year-old high school mathematics teacher, was terminated from her employment at the end of her third year of probation. The plaintiff, who was Chinese, claimed that she was terminated because the defendant principal of her high school was white and discriminated against her based on her racial background.</p>
06/06/2006	\$1,200,000	<p><u>Koszewski v. General Motors</u> (Pollution) This case involved about 300 property owners who lived near a former General Motors plant. General Motors was operating the plant when an underground storage tank leaked, entering the ground water. The contamination migrated beneath a residential neighborhood, causing property damage to their homes.</p>
07/11/2006	\$2,000,000	<p><u>Murk v. Medallion</u> (Premises) A city public works department employee was electrocuted when he inadvertently touched a live wire that was exposed on a boiler. The wire was exposed when the defendant's employee forgot to secure the cover over the boiler's low water switch.</p>
07/13/2006	\$1,700,000	<p><u>Bonkowski v. Allstate Insurance Company</u> (Auto) Bonkowski was struck by a car as a pedestrian and was not found until the following morning. He suffered a diffuse brain injury from the trauma as well as hypothermia.</p>
07/27/2006	\$1,960,000	<p><u>Soto v. Web Hill</u> (Auto) This case involved a rear end motor vehicle accident. Traffic had stopped suddenly for a vehicle that stopped to turn left, and the defendant failed to stop in time. The plaintiff suffered whiplash but did not lose consciousness and was treated at the emergency room immediately. Ten days later, he began to experience vertigo and nausea, which his doctor related to the collision.</p>

09/2006	\$5,200,000	<u>Doe v. Doe</u> (Premises) This case involved a flash fire from flammable gas, which caused second and third degree burn injures.
09/2006	\$1,150,000	<u>Doe v. XYZ Apartment Complex</u> (Premises) The plaintiff was a resident of an Oakland County apartment complex that hired a general contractor to replace porch siding throughout the complex. The general contractor hired a subcontractor to do the work. When the subcontractor worked at the plaintiff's apartment, he unscrewed one end of a porch guardrail, replacing the siding but failed to reattach the guardrail. When the plaintiff leaned on the guardrail, the plaintiff fell approximately 30 inches off his porch.
10/17/2006	\$3,400,000	<u>Long v. Polaris Sales</u> (Products Liability) The plaintiff was riding on a fairly new Polaris jet ski in Kalkaska County. Due to a defect in the hood mechanism, it came off at about 30 miles per hour, shattering his face.
10/30/2006	\$1,200,000	<u>Seng v. Hubbel</u> (Auto) A head-on accident between the plaintiff and the sheriff's deputy resulted in claims for permanent injures. The plaintiff Seng was driving his vehicle when at an intersection it was struck by defendant Hubbel, a deputy with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. The defendant was operating a vehicle in the course of his employment but was not responding to an injury. The plaintiff suffered bilateral dashboard/knee injures requiring surgical repair and had to undergo more than 100 days of physical therapy.
12/07/2006	\$2,000,000	<u>Doe v. XYZ</u> (Premises) This premises liability case involved burn injures to three people when a propane leak caused a fire.
12/08/2006	\$1,900,000	<u>UHL v. Konatsu</u> (Products Liability) The plaintiff's husband was unloading a raised hopper of scrap steel weighing several thousand pounds when two of the four bolts sheered and the mast and load fell straight backward on top of the operator's cage, rendering the operator a quadriplegic. The defect alleged, which was supported by the evidence, related to the defendant manufacturer's design of the attachment of the fort life mast to the front load bearing axel.
12/14/2006	\$1,600,000	<u>Procida v. Dippel</u> (Premises) The plaintiffs were living in a rental home which had a double-hung window that connected two sleeping areas. In May of 2005, one of the window panes was broken when the plaintiff's sons were wrestling. In July of 2005, the two-year-old decedent attempted to crawl over the bottom sash of the window and in so doing pulled the top sash down on her neck. She died of slow asphyxiation.

2007	\$1,900,000	<p><u>Name of case confidential</u> (Auto)</p> <p>The defendant driver spent many hours drinking at the defendant's bar in Michigan and became visibly intoxicated while on the premises. Other individuals in the bar were aware of the defendant driver's intoxicated state as were some of the bar's employees. The defendant left the defendant's bar in a highly intoxicated state, drove a short distance down a two-lane highway, crossed the center line, and violently collided head-on with another car, killing two people instantly.</p>
2007	\$1,700,000	<p><u>Name of case confidential</u> (Auto)</p> <p>On 12/31/2006, the plaintiff (a 55-year-old married man) was driving on a major freeway. It was snowing very lightly. Approximately one mile north of him on the freeway, a very bad traffic accident had occurred, backing up the freeway for almost one mile. The plaintiff saw other vehicle backing up on the shoulder of the freeway in an effort to reach the off ramp. He decided to do the same, but as he backed up on the freeway's paved shoulder, he came upon the defendant's employee who was driving a large commercial truck. As a result, the commercial truck driver began to skid and started switching lanes to the right. He was not able to stop and collided with the vehicles in front of him. As he did so, he struck the back of the plaintiff's vehicle, killing him instantly.</p>
01/29/2007	\$1,500,000	<p><u>Wells v. Savoy Energy</u> (Premises)</p> <p>The plaintiff decedent was engaged in the process of conducting a hot oil operation for a crude oil tank battery facility. Some gas escaped from the tank battery storage units and ignited in a flash explosion, resulting in severe burns and ultimately the death of the plaintiff.</p>
03/19/2007	\$1,500,000	<p><u>Moore v. Dawson</u> (Auto)</p> <p>A 64-year-old automobile passenger was killed when an oncoming vehicle failed to yield and turned left in front of a vehicle she was riding in, causing a collision.</p>
03/23/3007	\$3,800,000	<p><u>Boyd v. Greenbrier Development, Inc.</u> (Premises)</p> <p>In 2001, the defendant damaged a driveway on an adjacent construction site that was owned by the plaintiff's father-in-law. The defendant dug a hidden ditch in order to drain the water from the driveway onto the plaintiff's land. The following spring, the 33-year-old plaintiff was riding an all-terrain vehicle across the grass and weeds in the field when he struck the hidden ditch and was thrown from the vehicle, sustaining serious disabling personal injuries.</p>
03/27/2007	\$2,100,000	<p><u>Fischer v. United Parcel Service</u> (Employment Practices)</p> <p>The plaintiff Fischer was an 18-year employee of defendant Untied Parcel Service. The plaintiff was an African American and sued United Parcel Service alleging racial discrimination but lost the case. Later, the plaintiff alleged that he was retaliated against for the earlier lawsuit when he returned to work from a medical leave and was discharged.</p>

04/2007	\$3,100,000	<p><u>Name of case confidential</u> (Auto)</p> <p>The defendant driver was operating a vehicle owned and titled to the defendant employer with the implied or expressed permission of the defendant employer when he failed to stop for a stop sign located at the corner of Miller Road and Country Road 633 in Grand Travers County. At the time, the defendant drove through the stop sign, the minor plaintiff was an occupant of the rear seat of the vehicle. As the defendant driver drove through the stop sign and into the intersection, his vehicle was struck broadside by a motor home.</p>
05/21/2007	\$1,200,000	<p><u>Egan v. White</u> (Auto)</p> <p>On the evening of 12/12/2004, the plaintiff was driving westbound on I-94 in Van Buren County after plowing snow for Kalamazoo County. He was driving a 1986 snowplow truck. Because of a traffic backup caused by an accident up ahead on the highway, he slowed his truck to neutral. While stopped in the right lane, he was rear ended by a semi trailer driven by the defendant. As a result, he suffered injuries that required two fusions of his lumbar and cervical regions as well as treatment for damage to his elbow and shoulder. He also suffered depression following the crash.</p>
05/25/2007	\$1,800,000	<p><u>McLean v. Detroit Edison</u> (Premises &amp; Pollution)</p> <p>Carpenter Lindsey McLean sustained second degree burns and an exacerbation of preexisting knee injury, rendering him completely disabled from his chosen line of work, when a valve at defendant Detroit Edison's power plant was inadvertently opened, allowing the release of highly corrosive sodium hydroxide. The plaintiff argued that Detroit Edison was negligent in failing to ensure that the valve was plugged or to utilize a different type of valve that would prevent the inadvertent release of sodium hydroxide.</p>
07/13/2007	\$3,000,000	<p><u>Name of case confidential</u> (Auto)</p> <p>The plaintiff was a 16-year-old female high school student riding as a passenger in an automobile driven by her friend. This vehicle was involved in a serious accident caused by a commercial truck that made an illegal left turn in front of the plaintiff's vehicle. She sustained severe brain injuries and numerous orthopedic injuries. Prior to the accident, the plaintiff was an outstanding high school athlete who would have received a full-ride scholarship to a major four-year college to participate in her sport. However, she was unable to do so because of serious brain injuries.</p>
08/10/2007	\$1,500,000	<p><u>Rice v. Posley</u> (Auto)</p> <p>On 6/4/2005, the plaintiff was traveling westbound on I-94 in his SUV when he lost a tire. The plaintiff pulled over to the side of the road. When he stood on the shoulder looking for the tire, a bus owned and operated by the City of Detroit crashed into the plaintiff's vehicle and pushed it into him, resulting in his death.</p>

10/05/2007	\$1,500,000	<p><u>Estate of Borgman v. Martin</u> (Auto)</p> <p>The 66-year-old and recently retired Borgman was operating his motor vehicle southbound in northwestern Ottawa County. The weather conditions were very bad. It was snowing heavily and the roads were snow covered and slippery. The defendant was operating his vehicle westbound. The defendant failed to stop for the stop sign that controlled the intersection. The defendant was only traveling at a speed of approximately 30 miles per hour when he attempted to stop for the stop sign. The defendant entered into the intersection, striking Borgman's vehicle on the driver's side. He was pronounced dead at the scene.</p>
10/10/2007	\$1,600,000	<p><u>Name of case confidential</u> (Auto)</p> <p>The 51-years-old plaintiff was on his way to work at the Ford Rouge plant and traveled eastbound on I-94 near Ecorse Road when he was involved in a minor fender-bender. Following the accident, the plaintiff and the other car were disabled in the far left lane of I-94. The defendant struck the plaintiff's vehicle and caused severe injuries to the other driver occupying the second vehicle.</p>
11/16/2007	\$1,350,000	<p><u>Gerdes v. Chovanec</u> (Auto)</p> <p>On 5/3/2006, the plaintiff was a road construction worker when he was struck by a vehicle driven by the defendant. The plaintiff suffered numerous injuries, including a brain injury and extensive pelvic injures.</p>
01/2008	\$21,000,000	<p><u>Higdon v. Arby Construction, et al.</u> (Premises)</p> <p>The children of a Bloomfield Hills couple died in a propane explosion while vacationing at a Wisconsin resort two summers ago. The parents received \$21,000,000 as a result of a settlement. The children died when the cabin they were sleeping in exploded. Authorities said that they believed construction crews working near the resort ruptured an underground propane line sometime before the explosion.</p>
01/08/2008	\$3,700,000	<p><u>Liebendorfer v. Albanese</u> (Sexual Harassment)</p> <p>The defendant owned two restaurants in Kalamazoo. He molested his bookkeeper's daughter who was in the fourth and fifth grade. This continued until she graduated from high school. She was then raped upon her return.</p>