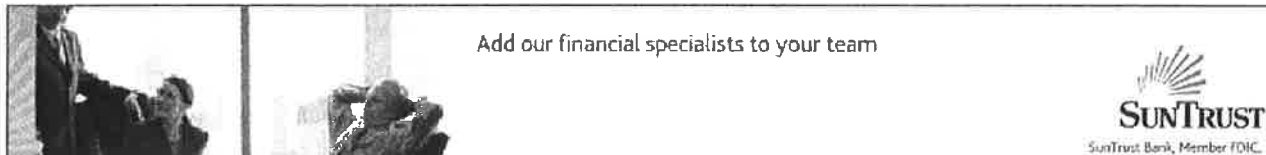


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From the April 27, 1998 North Carolina Lawyers Weekly.

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Verdicts & Settlements

Negligence/Auto

Wrongful Death -- Lumber Truck Crossed Center Line -- College Student Killed -- \$750,000 Mediated Settlement -- Memorials To Daughter

Brief Statement of Claim: A wrongful death/vehicular negligence case was filed on behalf of the estate of a 19-year-old female college student who was killed when a lumber truck crossed the center line on Interstate 40 near Hillsborough.

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Principal Injuries (in order of severity): Death

Special Damages: Loss of services not calculated; funeral expenses of \$7,428; net income of her youngest parent would have been approximately \$210,634, based on an expectation of graduation from a four-year college in North Carolina with a full work-life expectancy

Tried or settled: Settled during second mediation, following depositions of the defendant driver and his passenger.

County where tried or settled: Wake

Case Name and number: *Joseph M. Curran, Administrator of the Estate of Kristie Curran v. Howard Franklin Blough and Mebane Lumber Building Supply, Inc.*

Date Concluded: July 30, 1997

Name of mediator: Robert Beason, Esq. was mediator of second mediation.

Amount: \$750,000

Insurance Carrier: Lumber Mutual Insurance Company

Expert Witnesses and areas of expertise: n/a

Attorneys for plaintiffs: Don Beskind and Karen Rabenau of Twiggs , Abrams, Strickland & Trehy, P.A., Raleigh

Other Useful Info: The decedent, a college student, was driving home on a Friday afternoon to visit with her family for the weekend.

As she traveled eastbound on Interstate 40, having passed the I-85 merge, a lumber truck operated by Mebane Lumber failed to stop in time for braking traffic in the westbound lanes. The truck swerved into the median to avoid striking traffic ahead and skidded out of control across the median, striking the decedent's vehicle and causing it to roll. The truck driver plead guilty to careless and reckless driving.

The decedent's parents intended several charitable activities to memorialize their daughter, including a meditation garden at the high school in North Carolina she graduated from, playing fields for the high school in her home town, and a scholarship fund for the child of a close friend of the decedent.

In addition to the monetary settlement reached in the case, Mebane Lumber agreed to provide building materials to assist in constructing the meditation garden.

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