

[Try 3 Free](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Our Newspapers](#) | [Other Products](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Help](#)



Wealth Management for the Legal Industry
• Experience • Expertise • Focus

[Learn more >>](#)



From the January 07, 2008 North Carolina Lawyers Weekly.

[Order a REPRINT
of this Story](#)

Verdicts & Settlements

Jury awards \$2.3 million to farmer injured in auto wreck

On March 21, 2005, the plaintiff was a passenger in a vehicle struck by the defendant's truck. The plaintiff was ejected from the vehicle and found on the ground by EMS workers.

The defendant admitted negligence in causing the collision but disputed the extent and effect of the plaintiff's injuries.

ADVERTISEMENT

The plaintiff was initially taken to a local medical center and diagnosed with: Fractures of his pelvis; open, comminuted and displaced fracture of the right femur; left orbital swelling and hemorrhage; and rib fracture.

Later that day, he was transported by helicopter to a tertiary care center.

During the next two years, the plaintiff underwent five surgeries the first to repair the fracture and place hardware, and subsequent surgeries

to remove hardware and to remove infected tissue and graft new bone in place due to the development of osteomyelitis.

The fractures to the plaintiff's pelvis, left eye and left rib healed. His treating orthopaedic surgeon testified that the plaintiff was permanently and totally disabled and could not return to work as a farmer due to the injuries to his femur.

The defendant argued that the plaintiff had complained of leg pain and swelling prior to the wreck, and that there were things other than intensive farm labor he could do to earn an income, the plaintiff's report said.

The plaintiff's wife took a leave of absence from her job to care for her husband. She testified that she had not lost any love or affection for him as a result of his injuries.

Type of action: Personal injury

Injuries alleged: Femur fracture, pelvic fractures, eye orbit fracture and rib fracture

Case name: Hobgood v. Pike Electric, Inc.

Case number: 06 CVS 334

Court: Granville County Superior Court

Name of judge: Hon. Carl R. Fox

Verdict or settlement: Verdict (jury)

Verdict date: March 23, 2007

Offer: \$1,000,001 (offer of judgment 10 days before trial)

Amount: \$2,325,000 (\$2,000,000 for plaintiff; \$325,000 for plaintiff's wife's loss of consortium)

Special damages: \$214,147 (medical bills), \$60,000 (lost wages — average income from farming operation for approximately five years before plaintiff's injury)

Plaintiff's experts: Timothy Harris, M.D. (treating orthopaedic surgeon), J. C. Poindexter (economist)

Insurer: Liberty Mutual

Plaintiff's attorneys: Donald R. Strickland & Karen M. Rabenau of Twiggs, Beskind, Strickland & Rabenau, P.A., Raleigh

Submitted by: Donald R. Strickland

© 2008 Lawyers Weekly Inc., All Rights Reserved.

**Order a REPRINT
of this Story**

[User Agreement For Subscriber-Only Online Benefits](#) | [Help](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#)

Send any questions or comments to comments@lawyersweekly.com

Subscriber Services: 1-800-451-9998 **Technical Support:** 1-800-451-9998

© Copyright 2008 Lawyers Weekly, Inc. All Rights Reserved



Lawyers Weekly does not use spyware; however, we link to a number of other sites and do not take responsibility for any spyware they may use.

This site is best viewed with Internet Explorer 6 ([click here to download](#))