

Allstate Insurance Hardball Tactics Backfire With Jury Verdict On Long Island

By Neal Goldstein

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Earlier this week a jury on Long Island returned a favorable verdict for the victim of a motor vehicle accident after Allstate played a risky game with its negotiations. Lawyers are warning policyholders to pay attention to these "tactics" .

On Tuesday in Mineola, a suburb on Long Island New York, a Supreme Court civil trial ended with a verdict in which Allstate Insurance Company, on behalf of its policyholder, was required to pay compensation to the plaintiff in a motor vehicle accident . In this personal injury case the victim, a self employed mother, suffered a fractured wrist requiring surgery. She had been recently diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy. Allstate which was the insurance company for one of the vehicles involved in the accident refused to offer any money on the case until three months before trial at which time a low five figure offer was made. According to the victims attorney Neal Goldstein of Goldstein(<http://www.eglaw.com/>) and Bashner the offer was unreasonably low. "In light of the total circumstances this case had a minimum six figure value". It was not until the middle of the trial that the attorneys representing the driver and policyholder of Allstate that an offer was made in the mid five figure range.. The accident victim in an effort to stop the trauma of the trial lowered her demand to a high five figure settlement at which time Allstate shockingly withdrew its offer.

According to the Goldstein a CNN investigation conducted a few years ago showed that some of the major automobile insurance companies, including Allstate, have taken on a policy of deny, delay and defend all minor injury and crash claims. See <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/02/09/insurance.hardball/index.html> "Clearly from my observation from this case and many others in my practice the major insurance companies including Allstate have taken this policy to another and more dangerous level by implementing these tactics on major injury cases" says Goldstein.

The case on Long Island went to the jury and after several hours of deliberation a verdict for the plaintiff was rendered. Allstate settled the case immediately for a six figure settlement. According to Goldstein all policyholders should be mindful, when they are defendants in a personal injury lawsuit, as to what their insurance company is doing and whether any of the strategies being employed will put their personal assets at risk.

For more information on how insurance companies operate go to: <http://www.eglaw.com/reports/how-to-battle-insurance-companies-in-new-york.cfm>

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