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■ \$3.7 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Bulk of settlement goes to baby hurt in dump-truck crash

MOTOR-VEHICLE COLLISION

- **Venue:** Washington County Circuit Court
- **Case Number/Date:** 19WA-CC00362 and 19WA-CC00362/Aug. 3, 2020
- **Judge:** Jerel Lee Poor II
- **Insurers:** Star Insurance, The General Insurance, USAA, Farm Bureau and State Farm
- **Caption:** Star Insurance v. Jaron Boyet
- **Plaintiff's Attorney:** Kevin J. Roach, Law Offices of Kevin J. Roach, St. Louis
- **Defendant's Attorneys:** Keith Henson, Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal, St. Louis; Lauren H. Navarro, Armstrong Teasdale, Kansas City

BY SCOTT LAUCK

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A five-car accident in Washington County resulted in a \$3.7 million settlement for an injured infant and her mother.

In the Jan. 18, 2018 crash, a vehicle driven by Jaron Boyet rear-ended a Washington County dump truck, causing a chain-reaction crash with three other vehicles. Boyet's 4-day-old daughter and her mother were flown from the accident and suffered traumatic, life-altering injuries, said their attorney, Kevin Roach.

Washington County's insurer, Star Insurance, initially denied liability. It also argued that any claim against the



Kevin Roach

county would be capped by sovereign immunity, which at the time of the accident was \$420,606 for a single person and \$2.8 million per accident.

After the plaintiffs made a policy-limits demand, Star filed an interpleader action, placing its \$2 million limit into the hands of the court. It was later discovered that the county also had a commercial general liability policy for an additional \$2 million. After extended negotiations on whether exclusions applied, Star agreed to pay the full limits on both policies.

Four other insurance carriers in addition to Star agreed to pay their policy limits for a total global settlement of \$4.5 million, Roach said. Judge Jerel Lee Poor II approved settlements of \$2.2 million for the minor child and an additional \$1.51 million for the child's mother. Roach said the remaining \$790,000 was split among four other injured parties out of court.

Roach said that, prior to court approval, MO Healthnet and the parties' private health insurance agreed to defer or waive the child's past and future medical expenses, which totaled approximately \$490,000.