

# Missouri Lawyers WEEKLY

## \$1.54 MILLION SETTLEMENT Crash on icy curve yields settlement for injured passenger

### MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

■ **Venue:** Iron County

■ **Case Number/Date:**

Not filed/Aug. 28, 2023

■ **Special Damages:**

\$265,340 gross medical expenses

■ **Insurer:** Nationwide

■ **Caption:**

G. Castillo v. Big Springs Medical Association Inc.

■ **Plaintiff's Attorney:**

Kevin J. Roach, Law Offices of Kevin J. Roach, St. Louis



*Kevin J. Roach*

By **SCOTT LAUCK**

A woman who suffered severe injuries in a head-on collision on an icy southern Missouri highway recovered more than \$1.5 million in a series of pre-suit settlements, according to her attorney.

Kevin J. Roach of the Law Offices of Kevin J. Roach in St. Louis, said his client, G. Castillo, was a passenger in a rented vehicle that was northbound on Missouri Highway 49 in Iron County on Nov. 13, 2019. A southbound vehicle fishtailed on an icy curve and

crossed into oncoming traffic. It struck Castillo's car, which spun counterclockwise and came to rest partially off the road. Roach said the southbound vehicle was found to be at fault, though both drivers had impaired visibility due to the curve in the road and adverse weather conditions.

Castillo sustained a neck hematoma, a puncture wound in the left thigh, multiple fractures and a pulmonary contusion. She and another passenger were airlifted to a St. Louis hospital. In total, there were six people with serious and catastrophic injuries from the accident, Roach said, with some claims that remain pending.

Roach said that, despite the severity of her injuries, his client never required a major surgery, "a rarity in cases with seven figure recoveries."

"This unique circumstance played a pivotal role in our mediation sessions, ultimately resulting in our client receiving more than 50 percent of the \$3 million policy limits tendered by Nationwide, reflecting the extent of her injuries compared to other claimants," he said.

Roach said the case underwent a protracted mediation process due to the complexity of the injuries sustained by other passengers, with two failed mediation attempts before settlements totaling \$1,535,556 were reached. Castillo was on a work-related trip, so Roach worked with out-of-state co-counsel to recover on a workers' compensation claim. Other portions of the settlement came from an underinsured motorist policy and a lost wages claim. Additional claims with other insurance carriers are pending.