

# Missouri Lawyers

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## WEEKLY

### ■ \$1.2 MILLION SETTLEMENT

# Air-traffic controller receives \$1.2M settlement after car crash

#### MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

■ **Venue:** Warren County (not filed)

■ **Date:** July 18, 2018

■ **Plaintiff's Experts:** Stephen J. Dolan, Alton, Illinois (vocational-rehabilitation consultant); Rebecca M. Summary, Southeast Missouri State University, chair, Department of Economics and Finance, (forensic economics)

■ **Insurance:** Safeco (for Jost)

■ **First Pretrial Offer:** \$950,000

■ **Special Damages:** \$275,404 in billed medical expenses; \$1.975 million to \$2,725,328 in future economic losses

■ **Caption:** Confidential v. Zachary Jost

■ **Plaintiff's Attorney:** Kevin J. Roach, Law Offices of Kevin Roach, Chesterfield

**BY ALAN SCHER ZAGIER**

*Special to Missouri Lawyers Media*

A St. Louis County woman injured in a 2014 rear-end collision on westbound Interstate 70 has settled a claim with the other driver's insurer for \$1.2 million.

The 51-year-old Wildwood resident, whose attorney requested that her name not be used, was driving a 2014 Kia



**Kevin J. Roach**

Sorento on the highway through Warrenton when she was struck from behind by a 2014 Jeep Wrangler after slowing down due to traffic congestion.

Jeep driver Zachary Lee Jost of St. Louis, who was 19 at the time, told the Missouri State Highway Patrol that "I think I fell asleep at the wheel. When I came up on her, I slammed on my brakes. But it was too late."

The plaintiff, who worked as an air-traffic controller, suffered injuries to her head, brain, back, neck and spine, said

Chesterfield plaintiff's attorney Kevin Roach. Her injuries required two shoulder surgeries, leading to more than \$275,000 in medical bills and minimum estimated future economic losses approaching \$2 million. Two children who were in also in the car were not seriously injured, according to Roach.

"She went back to work initially but after exhausting her sick leave and vacation had to take early retirement," he said. "She couldn't get clearance to work under [Federal Aviation Administration] guidelines because she had to take several medications to control her pain."

Records provided by Roach show that the plaintiff agreed to the settlement in July.

The attorney said that Jost was initially charged with operating a motor vehicle in a careless and imprudent manner, involving an accident, but online court records show that he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of operating a motor vehicle with excessive noise, paying a total of \$160 in fines and court costs.