

Accident victim gets \$5 million for injuries

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A Summit County Common Pleas jury yesterday awarded more than \$5 million to a Hudson woman permanently disabled by a 1987 automobile accident in Boston Heights.

After deliberating an hour on Monday and all day yesterday, the

**Summit
County**

jury returned a \$7.64 million verdict in favor of Cara Nichols, 22, of Hudson, and against Coast Distribution Systems Inc. of Elkart, Ind.

However, the jury found Coast to be 67% responsible for the 1987 accident, which means that, barring a successful appeal, Nichols would collect only \$5.12 million. The jury found Nichols was 33%

responsible.

Nichols' lawyer, Mark Hilbert of Akron, said his client was driving on Ohio 8 in Boston Heights and tried to go through an intersection, but her vision was blocked by a truck parked at the side of the road. Another truck struck her car.

The parked truck was owned by Coast. The other truck was owned by Yellow Freight, but Judge Mary Spicer dismissed Yellow Freight as a defendant.

The remaining defendants in the two-week-long trial were Coast Distribution and Coast driver Tyrone Bott.

Hilbert said Nichols was hospitalized 10 months following the accident, suffered a brain injury and can walk only a little on her own.