

Court upholds \$5.1 million injury award

AKRON

The Ohio Court of Appeals (9th District) yesterday affirmed a \$5.1 million personal-injury judgment, handed up by a Summit County Common Pleas jury in 1991.

The judgment — among the largest ever awarded in Summit County — followed a personal-injury lawsuit brought by Cara Nichols of Hudson as the result of a car-truck accident in Boston Township in 1987.

The jury awarded Nichols \$7.64 million, following a two-week trial before Judge Mary Spicer. But a portion of that was set aside because Nichols was found to be 33% responsible, with Coast Distribution Systems of Elkart, Ind., found to be 67% at fault.

Mark Hilkert, Nichols' lawyer, said she was driving on Ohio 8 and attempted to get around a parked truck when she was struck by another truck. The parked truck was owned by the defendant in the case. The other truck was owned by another trucking firm that was dismissed as a defendant.

Hilkert said Nichols suffered a permanent disability as a result of the crash, was hospitalized 10 months and walks with difficulty.

— James Ewinger