

The Indiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Indiana Jury Verdicts

July 2022

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

23 IJVR 7

Unbiased and Independently Researched Jury Verdict Results

In This Issue

Marion County	
Police Negligence - \$500,000	p. 1
Monroe County	
Auto Negligence - \$23,087	p. 2
Orange County	
Government Negligence - \$12,250	p. 3
Allen County	
Auto Negligence - \$1,013	p. 3
St. Joseph County	
Underinsured Motorist - \$95,000	p. 4
Federal Court - Hammond	
Negligence Construction - \$274,013	p. 4
Morgan County	
Auto Negligence - \$3,641	p. 6

Civil Jury Verdicts

Timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in Indiana including court, division, presiding judge, parties, cause number, attorneys and results.

Police Negligence - A motorcyclist on his way to work was injured when he crashed into an Indiana State Police vehicle that had pulled into his path from a police parking lot; plaintiff was barred by state law from pursuing a claim against the ISP sergeant who had pulled into his path, but plaintiff successfully pursued a claim against the ISP itself and the state

Stabler v. State of Indiana, et al.,
49D11-1902-CT-5558

Plaintiff: David P. Murphy, *David P. Murphy & Associates, P.C.*, Greenfield
Defense: Marie A. Kuck, *Kightlinger & Gray, LLP.*, Indianapolis
Verdict: \$500,000 for plaintiff
County: **Marion**, Superior
Court: J. Dryer, 6-2-22

In the early morning of 8-23-18, Lance Stabler, then age 48, was riding his motorcycle on his way to work. Stabler's route took him west on 21st Street in Indianapolis. At the same time, Sgt. Jeffery Woodward with the Indianapolis State Police (hereinafter, "ISP") was emerging from an ISP parking lot.

Sgt. Woodward was on the job at the time, and he was driving an ISP vehicle. As he drove out of the parking lot, he pulled directly into Stabler's path. Stabler crashed into the side of the ISP vehicle and became airborne.

Stabler hit the ground with his left shoulder and helmet. He bounced as his helmet flew off, and he then hit his head on the pavement. Stabler's motorcycle was completely

destroyed in the crash. Stabler himself was taken to the ER at Eskenazi Hospital where he remained overnight.

Stabler's injuries included a back injury and a cut above his right knee. His knee injury was sewn shut, but it later developed a MERSA infection that required surgery. Stabler also followed a course of physical therapy. In July of 2019, nearly a year after the crash, Stabler underwent a two-level fusion surgery that he also linked to the crash. The record does not reveal the amount of his medical expenses.

Stabler filed a Tort Claim Notice and later filed suit against Sgt. Woodward, Douglas Carter as the Superintendent of the Indiana State Police, and the State of Indiana. Stabler later amended his complaint to add his wife, Michalene Stabler, as a co-plaintiff on a claim for her loss of consortium.

Defendants filed a motion for summary judgment on Michalene's consortium claim on the ground that she and her claim had not been mentioned in Stabler's Tort Claim Notice, nor had she timely filed her own separate Tort Claim Notice. Plaintiffs accepted this argument and agreed to a defense summary judgment on Michalene's consortium claim.

Additionally, defendants filed a motion for partial dismissal of the claim against Sgt. Woodward on the ground that state law bars any action against him relating to the crash