

MOTORCYCLE - AUTOMOBILE COLLISION

Expert Opinion Supports Defense Verdict

A motorcycle collided with the rear of an automobile near an intersection on a multi-lane roadway. The plaintiff motorcyclist alleged that the defendant automobile driver turned right out of the intersection and directly into the right lane that the motorcyclist was traveling in. The automobile driver said that she pulled into the right lane when it was clear of traffic, but other traffic was in the left lane approaching the intersection. Eyewitness testimony was that the motorcyclist possibly changed lanes at the intersection and then collided with the rear of the automobile.

Motorcycle expert Erin Higinbotham, P.E., reconstructed the crash and evaluated both drivers' actions. The reconstruction involved evaluating both alleged scenarios. The motorcyclist's scenario was not consistent with the roadway evidence, the vehicle evidence and how motorcyclists respond during emergency braking. It was determined that the motorcyclist completed an improper lane change and caused the crash. The reconstruction showed the automobile driver operated her vehicle in a reasonable and proper manner, consistent with the evidence and how other drivers operate vehicles in that area.

The case was tried before a jury of seven, which returned a defense verdict.