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Man rear-ended by tractor-trailer settles lawsuit for \$900K

■ **BY BILL CRESENZO**
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A man who was thrown from his convertible after a tractor-trailer rear ended him has confidentially settled a lawsuit for \$900,000, his attorneys report.

Hunter Gillespie and Herb Auger of Auger & Auger Law Firm in Charlotte report that their client was driving his car in the right line of Interstate 85 in Kings Mountain in October 2017 when the tractor trailer, which was traveling at 60 mph, rear ended him. The man was ejected from his car and suffered life-threatening injuries. He required emergency surgery to repair a traumatic aortic aneurysm and suffered multiple closed facial fractures and rib fractures.

He was initially transported to CaroMont Regional Medical Center in Gastonia before being airlifted to the trauma unit at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte due to the extent of his injuries. After four weeks of intensive physical therapy, the man was released and continued physical therapy at a Veterans Administration hospital.

“He has made a good recovery but still has some lingering PTSD and short-term memory issues,” Auger said.

The defense argued that the PTSD and memories issues were pre-existing conditions due to the man’s age, Auger said.

The client argued that he had three major



**Hunter
Gillespie**



Herb Auger

SETTLEMENT REPORT – AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

Amount: \$900,000

Injuries alleged: Traumatic aortic aneurysm requiring surgery, multiple rib and facial fractures

Name of case: Confidential

Court: Withheld

Mediator: René Stemple Ellis of Beason & Ellis in Durham

Special Damages: \$157,385

Date of settlement: May 21

Most helpful experts: Ryan McMahan of Accident Research Specialists in Cary

Attorneys for plaintiff: Hunter Gillespie and Herb Auger of Auger & Auger Law Firm in Charlotte

Attorneys for defendant: Withheld

events related to the accident that supported the PTSD and memory loss claims: subdural hematoma, loss of blood inherent with a traumatic aortic aneurysm, and repair and post-operative cardiac arrest.

René Stemple Ellis of Beason & Ellis in Durham mediated the settlement, which was agreed to on May 21. The identities of the defendants and their legal counsel were withheld pursuant to the confidentiality agreement.

Follow Bill Cresenzo on Twitter @bcresenzonclw