

## ■ \$3 MILLION SETTLEMENT

# Settlement reached after post-accident 'fat embolism'

### MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

- Cole County Circuit Court
- Case Number/Date: Confidential/July 15, 2015.

■ Plaintiff's Attorneys: Aaron W. Smith and T. Drew Schaffler of The AW Smith Law Firm in Columbia, Missouri

- Defense Attorney: Confidential

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A man injured in a crash with a commercial

motor vehicle reached a \$3 million dollar settlement with the defendant driver.

The plaintiff's lawyer, Aaron W. Smith said the accident occurred in February 2015, when the plaintiff was driving on a divided highway in Cole County. He alleged that the other vehicle crossed over the median in front of the plaintiff, who was unable to stop in time to avoid a T-bone collision.

The plaintiff was taken to University Hospital where he had surgery to repair multiple lower extremity fractures. As the plaintiff was recovering from surgery, he suffered a "fat embolism" that traveled to his brain and caused a stroke and



Aaron W. Smith    T. Drew Schaffler

permanent brain damage, Smith said.

Fat embolisms are often associated with fracture of or surgery on a large bone such

as the femur, because bone marrow fat can escape into the bloodstream. Smith said such embolisms can occur 12 to 36 hours after an injury.

Smith said the parties were able to settle the case in mediation. An attorney for the defense confirmed the settlement.

