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WEEKLY

■ \$1.47 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Couple in crash settles with contractor over slick road

PERSONAL INJURY

- Venue: Perry County Circuit Court
- Case Number/Date: Confidential/June 4, 2015
- Judge: Benjamin F. Lewis
- Caption: Confidential
- Plaintiffs' Attorneys: Antoinette Schlapprizzi and Craig Schlapprizzi, Schlapprizzi Attorneys at Law, St. Louis
- Defendant's Attorney: Confidential



Antoinette Schlapprizzi



Craig Schlapprizzi

By SCOTT LAUCK
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A husband and wife injured when their motorcycle hit a slick patch of highway settled with a construction contractor for nearly \$1.5 million.

According to Antoinette Schlapprizzi and Craig Schlapprizzi of Schlapprizzi Attorneys at Law, the plaintiffs were traveling through Perryville on a Sunday morning when they lost control on Interstate 55. The crash was within a construction zone that had been recently resurfaced. In a lawsuit, the couple alleged the surface of the asphalt-oil cement had flushed and bled, a defect that eliminates traction between a vehicle's tires and the road surface, particularly when the road is damp or wet.

The plaintiffs alleged there were no signs or markings indicating it was a construction zone, nor were there signs warning that the pave-

ment was slippery when wet. The plaintiffs also alleged that the contractor had previously corrected similar problems on a different section of the same highway, and that the highway department had complained about the quality of the contractor's work. A month after the plaintiffs' accident, the contractor used a grinder to roughen the pavement to remove the oily surface at the crash site, according to the Schlapprizzis.

The crash sent the husband's body into the cable barriers, causing multiple fractures in both legs. He was hospitalized for a month and required three operations to his left leg and seven to his right in the year following the crash, as well as substantial physical therapy. He requires nerve medication to address lightning bolt sensations that shoot through his legs throughout the day. His injuries left him permanently disabled.

His wife suffered relatively minor injuries in comparison to her husband but did not file a claim for personal injury. She claimed loss of consortium, seeking coverage for medical treatment and charges.

A claim against the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission remains pending. MO