

> Verdicts

A federal judge has approved a \$3.45 million settlement for family members who were injured when a truck rear-ended their car.

In 2003, the Charvat family — which included the father, Richard, the mother, Kelly, three daughters, ages 19, 17, and 15, and their 11-year-old cousin — was on I-55, driving to Pekin. An earlier crash stalled traffic in Livingston County, and the Charvat's car was struck from behind by a tractor-trailer driven at 57 m.p.h.

All the occupants in the car were injured. There were two brain injuries, a ruptured thoracic aorta, a collapsed lung, and fractures of the ribs, pelvis, clavicle, femur, ankle, jaw, and teeth. All of the family members suffered some scarring.

The family members were represented by Robert J. Bingle of **Corboy & Demetrio** and James Behrens and Michael Schroeder of **Behrens, Gioffre & Schroeder**, of Cleveland. The defendants were represented by Stephen M. Passen.