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— In the News —

In federal court

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

In 2003, the Charvat family — which included Richard, the father; Kelly, the mother; three daughters, 19-year-old Elizabeth, 15-year-old Michelle and 17-year-old Nicole; and their cousin, 11-year-old Kyle Vogler — was headed to Pekin for Thanksgiving.

An earlier crash on Interstate 55 stalled traffic in Livingston County, and the Charvat's vehicle was struck from behind by a tractor-trailer driven at 57 m.p.h. by Steven Haggard of Transport Service Co., according to the lawsuit.

All of the the occupants sustained injuries. There were two brain injuries, a ruptured thoracic aorta, a collapsed lung and fractures of the ribs, pelvis, clavicle, femur, ankle, jaw and teeth. There also were several lacerations requiring surgery and rehabilitation. All of the family members suffered some form of scarring.

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

U.S. District Judge **Martin C. Ashman** approved the settlement on Thursday. *Richard Charvat, et al. v. Steven Haggard, et al., etc.*, No. 05 C 6642.