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— In the News —

Around the Midwest

A St. Louis County, Mo., jury awarded \$9.5 million to the family of a former Chicago Blackhawks hockey player and coach who died in a car crash that occurred when the driver of the car in which he was riding struck another vehicle.

Keith Magnuson was in Toronto for a funeral in December 2003 and was being driven to a meeting at the National Hockey League Alumni Association offices by Robert Ramage, a former St. Louis Blues player.

Ramage, who was driving a rented car from National Car Rental of Canada, crossed the center line and crashed into another vehicle. Magnuson died instantly.

Tests revealed that Ramage was driving with a blood-alcohol content three times higher than the legal limit.

Friday's verdict is the largest for a wrongful death in St. Louis County history, said **Daniel M. Kotin** of Corboy & Demetrio P.C., who represented the family with **Grant Davis** of Davis, Bethune & Jones LLC in Kansas City.

Magnuson was survived by his wife, Cindy, and two children. Ramage is responsible for \$1.1 million of the award, and the car rental company will pay the rest, Kotin said. Ramage was represented by **Scott Harper** of Brinker & Doyen LLP in St. Louis. National Car Rental was represented by **Beth Boggs** of Boggs, Boggs & Bates LLC in St. Louis. St. Louis County Judge **Gary M. Gaertner Jr.** presided.

Cynthia Magnuson, et al. v. Robert Ramage, National Car Rental (Canada) Ltd., et al., No. 04CC-5281.