



SDSBS attorneys Jordan Dulcie (third from left) and DJ Ward (third from right) with the Agnew family in front of courthouse.

SDSBS obtains over \$7 million verdict for injuries in vehicle crash

There are no stop signs on the road to justice!

On June 13, 2019, Navy veteran Thaddeus Agnew was driving home from work when he approached an intersection with a flashing red light due to inclement weather and ongoing construction. After stopping to ensure the path was clear, he cautiously proceeded into the intersection. Mr. Agnew was more than halfway through the intersection, clearly visible to other traffic, when Sebastian Harknett, a truck driver employed by Keeler Roofing LLC, slammed into Mr. Agnew's vehicle. As a result of the collision, Mr. Agnew suffered a carotid artery dissection. The dissection provoked a stroke that left Mr. Agnew with significant physical and neurological injuries including vision loss and brain injury.

The Agnew family contacted a local Gainesville, Florida, attorney. After handling the case early on, the attorney felt that the defendant and their insurer were not fairly evaluating the case. The defendants had an insurance policy with a limit of \$2 million. The defendants disputed liability and failed to recognize the seriousness of Mr. Agnew's injuries. They only offered to settle the case for \$300,000, a fraction of the damages suffered by Mr. Agnew. Recognizing that the case would likely go to trial, the Gainesville attorney referred Mr. Agnew to Searcy Denney.

Searcy Denney attorneys **Jordan Dulcie** and **D.J. Ward** went to trial on April 3, 2023, in Alachua County, Florida, after four years of litigation and efforts to reach settlement with the defendants and their insurer on behalf of Mr. Agnew and his family. After six days of trial and just over two hours of deliberation, a Florida state court jury awarded more than \$7 million to the Agnew family after it found that Sebastian Harknett was negligent and 80% responsible for the crash. The jury's award included damages for Mr. Agnew and his family, future loss of earnings, past and future pain and suffering, and the family's loss of consortium.

As a result of the verdict exceeding the insurance coverage and realizing the defendants would not be able to satisfy such a large judgment, Searcy Denney worked to pursue to the full amount of the judgment against the insurer who failed to act in good faith to resolve the case during the nearly four years of litigation. As a result of the relentless efforts of attorneys Jordan Dulcie and D.J. Ward, the case was able to be resolved for a confidential amount in excess of the policy limits following trial. ♦



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