

Injured motorcyclist awarded \$500,000

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NEW BEDFORD — A Bristol County jury empaneled to hear a civil negligence case has awarded \$500,000 in damages to a New Bedford man who suffered injuries in a motorcycle accident four years ago.

The plaintiff, Daniel Pounds, a civil engineer with the Massachusetts Highway Department, underwent multiple surgeries and was unable to return to work for more than two years, according to his attorney, Steven T. Snow of Mashpee.

The accident occurred in Fairhaven on Aug. 8, 2006, when the defendant, Christopher Rosonina, was attempting to turn his vehicle left onto Huttleston Avenue from Weedon Road. Rosonina claimed he did not see Pounds because another vehicle obstructed his view of Route 6 as Pounds approached the intersection, Snow said.

Jurors heard arguments in "Daniel Pounds, et al. v. Christopher Rosonina, et al" during a three-day

trial this month in New Bedford Superior Court's new civil session.

The jury deliberated for more than three hours before finding that Rosonina, who was working as a delivery driver for Palace Pizza, was negligent and caused the accident.

The jury also found that Pounds was negligent, but that his negligence was not a substantial factor in causing his injuries.

Pounds also named Fairhaven Brothers Inc., the entity that operates Palace Pizza in Fairhaven, as a defendant because the accident happened during Rosonina's scope of employment.

There will be further litigation before Pounds' claim is ultimately resolved, according to Snow.

"The jury, which consisted of six men and women, was extremely attentive and carefully considered all of the evidence admitted at trial before reaching their verdict," Snow said. "My client is relieved that the trial is over and is satisfied with the jury's award of compensatory damages."