

## Pedestrian hit in lot to get \$3.5M

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A woman who sustained spine and ankle injuries after she was hit by a car in a parking lot has settled her lawsuit for \$3.5 million.

The deal was reached Jan. 18, the same day a trial was set to begin before Lake County Associate Judge [David P. Brodsky](#).

On Aug. 22, 2016, Mary Andreoni, then 61, was walking across a parking lot on her way into the Heinen's Grocery Store in north suburban Bannockburn when she was hit by Susan Pearl's vehicle as Pearl turned into a parking space.

Andreoni sustained a lower lumbar spine fracture as well as right and left ankle fractures, according to one of her attorneys [Todd A. Smith](#) of [Power Rogers & Smith LLP](#).

Smith said the case is unique because the rules of the road don't necessarily apply in a case where the incident occurred in a parking lot.

"That doesn't mean, of course, that drivers can be careless, but you can't look at the statutes to show violations of the law," he said. "You're primarily relying on the facts of the case to get at the assessment of negligence on the defendants' side and the contributory negligence on the plaintiff's side."

The 2016 lawsuit against Pearl included negligence and loss of consortium counts.

Pearl intended to argue at trial that Andreoni was contributorily negligent and, at the time of the incident, apologized to her for walking near where her vehicle was turning.

Smith said his client did not recall making such a statement.

Andreoni has since returned to work as a nurse practitioner, Smith said.

"She's relieved and I think, under the circumstances, quite pleased with the result," Smith said in an interview. "The point really is we think we obtained justice for her."

Andreoni was also represented by [Sean M. Houlihan](#) of Power Rogers & Smith LLP.

Pearl was represented by [Manuel "Manny" Sanchez](#) and [Kelly M. Cronin](#) of [Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP](#).

They could not be reached for comment.

The Lake County case is Mary C. Andreoni, et al., v. Susan P. Pearl, 16 L 893.

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