

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin®

Volume 159, No. 253

\$1.6M settlement entered for police crossing guard

BY MARC KARLINSKY*Law Bulletin staff writer*

After getting hit in the head by a mirror mounted on a bus while directing traffic, a suburban school crossing guard has agreed to a \$1.6 million settlement with the day care center that operated the bus.

Dale Strzyz was a civilian employee of the Grayslake Police Department and was directing traffic in front of the Prairieview Elementary School, 103 E. Belvidere Road, in north suburban Hainesville.

On Nov. 29, 2011, a bus owned by La Petite Academy struck Strzyz in the head with its protruding side mirror as it passed her. The collision knocked her to the pavement and caused injuries to her head, face and wrist.

At the time she was hit, Strzyz was wearing a bright yellow safety vest and had her police car in the median of the road with its lights activated.

Strzyz, 62, filed a lawsuit in October 2012 against La Petite Academy and the driver in Lake County Circuit Court. She alleged that La Petite Academy's bus was moving too fast for the traffic conditions and that the driver failed to exercise care.

Michelle M. Kohut, a Corboy & Demetrio P.C. associate who represented Strzyz, said her client still suffers from post-concussive syndrome two years after the collision and is unable to continue her job with the police department.

"They don't have any sort of sedentary position for community service officers," she said.

**Michelle M. Kohut**

Strzyz is still recovering from her injuries, so the \$1.6 million will help Strzyz care for herself and her family, Kohut said.

"I think for Lake County, especially, it's a good result for her," Kohut said. "It will help see her through with the fact she can't work any longer."

The case was scheduled for a trial in March in front of Circuit Judge Margaret J. Mullen, Kohut said. After reaching the settlement, the dismissal order was entered by Circuit Judge Thomas M. Schippers.

La Petite Academy was represented by Anthony M. Goldner and Bradley S. Levison of Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP.

Goldner said his client is pleased that the case is resolved.

The case is *Dale M. Strzyz v. La Petite Academy, et al.*, No. 12 L 301. mkarlinsky@lbpc.com