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Litigation Week
Verdicts & Settlements
railroad accident

DRIVER INJURED BY TRAIN AT CROSSING WINS \$2 MILLION

on sept. 19, a Helena, Ark., jury awarded \$2 million to Frank Stevenson, 39, who sustained brain damage and partial paralysis when his car was hit by a train while crossing a state highway in Arkansas in November 1998. The jury, however, awarded only \$10,000 to the estate of Stevenson's 69-year-old wife, Mary E., who was killed during the same accident. The plaintiffs contended that Union Pacific Railroad allowed vegetation to grow on both sides of the railway crossing, obstructing the view of drivers crossing the track. Union Pacific contended that Stevenson was at fault for the accident for pulling out in front of the train. Union Pacific is considering an appeal. Prior to trial, the railroad offered \$400,000 to settle, said plaintiffs' attorney B. Michael Easley. *Stevenson v. Union Pacific Railroad Co.* (E.D. Ark.).

PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEYS: B. Michael Easley, Easley, Hicky & Hudson, Forrest City, Ark.; Robert L. Pottroff, Myers Pottroff & Ball, Manhattan, Kan.

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS: Scott Tucker and Joel McKay, Friday, Eldredge & Clark, Little Rock, Ark.

NLJ Staff

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