



## Crash caused tendon damage in wrist, plaintiff claimed

**Type:** Verdict-Plaintiff

**Amount:** \$200,000

**State:** Maryland

**Venue:** Montgomery County

**Court:** Montgomery County, Circuit Court, MD

**Injury Type(s):**

- *back* - stenosis
- *neck* - stenosis; sprain, cervical; strain, cervical
- *other* - soft tissue; tenosynovitis; physical therapy; strains and sprains
- *wrist*
- *hand/finger* - hand; finger; trigger finger

**Case Type:**

- *Motor Vehicle* - Rear-ender; Multiple Vehicle

**Case Name:** Gregory Sumner v. Samantha Lasky, No. 483401V

**Date:** December 21, 2021

**Plaintiff(s):**

- Gregory Sumner, (Male, 63 Years)

**Plaintiff Attorney(s):**

- Cedric S. Lewis; Ashcraft & Gerel; Silver Spring MD for Gregory Sumner

**Plaintiff Expert (s):**

- Richard W. Barth M.D.; Hand Surgery; Washington, DC called by: Cedric S. Lewis

**Defendant(s):**

- Samantha Lasky

**Defense  
Attorney(s):**

- Tara J. McDowell; Law Office of Christopher R. Costabile; Baltimore, MD for Samantha Lasky

**Facts:**

On Nov. 9, 2018, plaintiff Gregory Sumner, 63, a butcher, was operating a sedan on Woodmont Avenue, near its intersection with Battery Lane, in Bethesda. He stopped because the driver of a vehicle in front of him was turning. Upon stopping, his vehicle was struck in the rear by a trailing sport utility vehicle driven by Samantha Lasky. Sumner claimed neck, back, wrist and finger injuries.

Sumner sued Lasky. Sumner alleged that Lasky was negligent in the operation of her vehicle.

The defense conceded liability. The case proceeded to a trial that addressed causation and damages.

**Injury:**

Sumner did not go to the hospital from the scene. However, he presented to MedStar Montgomery Medical Center the day after the crash. He was treated and released.

Sumner claimed that he jammed his right, dominant hand into the gear shift during the impact, causing a sprain to the triangular fibrocartilage complex in his right wrist. He further alleged that his right thumb developed stenosing tenosynovitis, which is an inflammatory, restrictive condition commonly termed “trigger finger,” and that he also suffered soft tissue sprains and strains to his neck and back.

Sumner underwent physical therapy for his spinal injuries. He also received an injection in his thumb. However, he said that the pain in his right upper extremity returned, so he underwent surgery in July 2019. The procedure included releases of the trigger thumb and the De Quervain's tendon. Sumner received minimal treatment after this surgery.

Sumner, a butcher, stated that he is unable to hold and grip certain knives as he did prior to the accident. He also said that he is limited in his ability to ride his bicycle and lift weights, and that his pain returns if he does either of these activities for an extended period of time.

Sumner sought recovery of noneconomic damages.

The defense maintained that the crash could not have caused Sumner's injuries. The defense also questioned Sumner's credibility. Defense counsel specifically alleged that Sumner failed to mention his involvement in an accident two months before the subject crash, and also supposedly failed to mention a subsequent accident that took place three days after the subject collision. Sumner's counsel contended that Sumner was not injured in the subsequent crash.

**Result:** The jury determined that Sumner's damages totaled \$200,000.

Gregory Sumner

\$ 200,000 noneconomic damages

**\$ 200,000 Plaintiff's Total Award**

**Trial Information:**

**Judge:** James A. Bonifant

**Trial Length:** 1 days

**Trial  
Deliberations:** 0

**Jury Vote:** 6-0

**Jury  
Composition:** 2 male, 4 female; 1 Black, 5 white

**Editor's  
Comment:** This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiff's counsel. Defense counsel did not respond to the reporter's phone calls.