



Passenger said collision with tractor-trailer led to ankle surgery

Type: Settlement

Amount: \$635,000.00

State: New Jersey

Venue: Hudson County

Court: Hudson County Superior Court, NJ

Injury Type(s):

- *back* - lordosis; lower back; myelopathy; bulging disc; herniated disc; spondylolisthesis; bulging disc, lumbar; herniated disc, lumbar; herniated disc at L4-5
- *neck* - lordosis; myelopathy; bulging disc; herniated disc; spondylolisthesis; bulging disc, cervical
- *ankle* - ankle ligament, tear; talofibular ligament, tear
- *other* - effusion; ligament, tear; physical therapy; tendolysis/tenolysis; tendon, severed/torn
- *epidermis* - edema; numbness
- *neurological* - radiculopathy; radicular pain / radiculitis
- *surgeries/treatment* - arthroscopy; debridement

Case Type:

- *Motor Vehicle* - Truck; Left Turn; Passenger; Sideswipe; Lane Change; Intersection; Tractor-Trailer; Multiple Vehicle
- *Worker/Workplace Negligence* - Negligent Hiring; Negligent Retention; Negligent Supervision

Case Name: Domonique Raynor v. Christopher E. Hailey, Rana Trans LLC, Miah M. Bilal, Lyft Inc., John Does 1-10 (fictitious persons) and ABC Corporations 1-10 (fictitious entities), No. HUD-L-000556-24

Date: December 18, 2025

Plaintiff(s):

- Domonique Raynor, (Female, 23 Years)

Plaintiff Attorney(s):

- Sophia Soraya; Varcadipane & Pinnisi, P.C.; New York NY for Domonique Raynor

Plaintiff Expert(s):

- Michael C. Gerling M.D.; Orthopedic Surgery; Brooklyn, NY called by: Sophia Soraya
- Siddhartha Sharma D.P.M.; Podiatry; New York, NY called by: Sophia Soraya

Defendant(s):

- Lyft Inc.
- Miah M. Bilal
- Rana Trans LLC
- Christopher E. Hailey

Defense Attorney(s):

- Samuel Rodrigues; Smith Mazure, P.C.; New York, NY for Christopher E. Hailey, Rana Trans LLC

Insurers:

- Knight Specialty Insurance Co.

Facts:

On Feb. 11, 2022, plaintiff Domonique Raynor, 23, was a passenger in Miah Bilal's vehicle as it traveled in the left lane of Secaucus Road, near the intersection with County Avenue in Secaucus. Bilal was acting as an employee and/or agent of Lyft Inc.

As Bilal attempted to turn left onto County Avenue, his vehicle was sideswiped by a tractor-trailer. The tractor-trailer's operator, Christopher Hailey of Rana Trans LLC, had been traveling on Secaucus Road in the lane directly to the right of Raynor's vehicle. The collision occurred as Hailey, who was also turning left onto County Avenue, entered Bilal's lane of travel. Raynor claimed neck, back and ankle injuries.

Raynor sued Hailey, Rana Trans, Bilal and Lyft. Raynor claimed that Hailey and Bilal were negligent in the operation of their respective vehicles, that Rana Trans was vicariously liable for Hailey's actions and that Lyft was vicariously liable for Bilal's actions. Raynor also made negligent supervision, hiring and retention claims against Lyft and Rana Trans.

Lyft was dismissed shortly after suit was filed.

Hailey and Rana Trans' pleadings were stricken for failure to provide discovery. Plaintiff's counsel also moved for summary judgment on liability against Hailey and Rana Trans; the motion was granted. Bilal was subsequently dismissed, and the case proceeded to damages against the tractor-trailer defendants only.

Injury:

Raynor went to an urgent care facility the day of the crash and subsequently presented to St. Barnabas Hospital.

Raynor claimed tears of her right ankle's talofibular ligament with soft tissue edema. In that same ankle, she also alleged a flexor hallucis longus tendon tear and associated effusion. Raynor was additionally diagnosed with an L4-5 herniation, C4-5, C5-6 and L5-S1 bulges, straightening of the normal cervical lordosis, cervical disc disease with myelopathy, lumbar spondylolisthesis and cervical and lumbar radiculopathy.

Raynor received treatment with various providers, including orthopedic, podiatry and pain management specialists. She also underwent physical therapy.

In late 2022, Raynor underwent right ankle surgery. The arthroscopic procedure included extensive debridement, tenolysis and tendon and ligament repair.

Raynor's podiatrist opined that Raynor had a moderate-to-severe permanent partial disability in her right ankle. The doctor claimed that Raynor required additional ankle treatment, including another arthroscopy with debridement.

Raynor further claimed that her neck and back injuries caused radicular pain, numbness and weakness in her extremities. Her treating orthopedist opined that Raynor's neck and back injuries were permanent, that she was severely disabled because of these injuries and that she required future spinal procedures.

The defense disputed the extent of Raynor's injuries.

Result:

The parties negotiated a pretrial settlement. The insurer for Hailey and Rana Trans agreed to pay Raynor \$635,000.

Domonique Raynor

Trial Information:

Trial Length: 0

**Trial
Deliberations:** 0

Editor's Comment: This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiff's counsel and defense counsel for Rana Trans and Hailey. Additional information was gleaned from court documents.

Writer Melissa Siegel