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IN THE NEWS

IN CIRCUIT COURT

The estate of an 18-year-old woman who died months after she was struck by a bus as she was walking across a street in Chicago's West Side has reached a \$7.85 million settlement in a wrongful death lawsuit brought against the bus driver and a private bus company.

The incident was captured by a Chicago police camera situated near Madison Street and Kedzie Avenue, said **Paul P. Wolf** of Mitchell, Hoffman & Wolf LLC who, along with **J. Wesley Mitchell**, represented the woman's estate.

Geri McKinney was 17 on Jan. 16, 2009, when she and her sister were walking north across Madison near its intersection with Kedzie, and a private school bus traveling south on Kedzie was attempting to turn west onto Madison. As the driver was making the turn, Wolf said, McKinney's sister leaped away and the bus struck McKinney and rolled over her.

Wolf said McKinney, who is survived by six siblings, suffered severe injuries and required the support of a ventilator and tracheostomy before her death about five months later.

The plaintiff alleged that the bus driver failed to reduce speed when making a right turn, and failed to stop and avoid striking a pedestrian.

John E. Norton of John E. Norton & Associates LLC represented the bus driver and R & D Bus Co. The defense contended that McKinney was comparatively negligent in that she failed to keep a proper lookout for vehicular traffic, and that she failed to yield the right-of-way to vehicles as she crossed the street outside its marked crosswalk.

The settlement was reached Thursday, following mediation with retired Cook County Circuit Judge **Michael J. Hogan**.

The case is *Estate of Geri McKinney v. Climmie Smith, et al.*, No. 09 L 001129.