



Lawyer drops \$7.6m lawsuit against cabby

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Matter resolved amicably at mediation, with terms of settlement remaining confidential.

A lawyer who sought \$7.6 million from a taxi driver for a whiplash injury from an accident that disrupted her career plans has dropped the lawsuit, having resolved the case amicably.

Ms Moi Sok Ling, who is an award-winning intellectual property lawyer with nearly 20 years of law firm experience, had sued Mr Aw Ah Sing in 2015 after his taxi rear-ended the car she was driving, leading to personal injuries.

A five-day High Court trial set for last month could have involved eight witnesses, including three experts on her behalf, according to a court order filed in July this year.

However, Ms Moi's lawyer filed a notice of discontinuance in the High Court last month to signal the lawsuit's end. Her lawyer, Mr Raj Singh Shergill from Lee Shergill LLP, said yesterday: "The matter has been amicably resolved at mediation before Justice Tan Lee Meng on terms which remain confidential."

WhiteFern LLC managing director K. Anparasan, representing the insurer for the taxi driver, said: "Our clients are very pleased with the outcome of the matter achieved through mediation at the Singapore Mediation

Centre."

A lawyer contacted by The Straits Times, Mr Jeyabalen, said such mediated settlements would carry non-disclosure agreements that gag the parties from commenting on the outcome.

He added that the mediation outcome agreed to by both parties could comprise any form of variation from the original claim sought.

Ms Moi, 42, was involved in the traffic accident on Jan 2, 2014, on what should have been her first day at work as a senior in-house counsel at a global company. She left the company on June 30, 2014.

A central issue, had the case gone to trial, would have been whether the accident caused her to leave the job.

According to court papers, the collision on the Pan-Island Expressway left her shell-shocked and caused pain on her right shoulder, neck and back, while her hands were numb.

The whiplash injury led to spinal cord edema (swelling) and damage to intervertebral discs of the cervical and lumbar spine. She also had other injuries to her right knee, right foot and right wrist.

Her medical treatment included several weeks of medical and hospitalisation leave, and over the years she has had regular physiotherapy sessions for her rehabilitation.

In 2016, Judicial Commissioner Foo Tuat Yien found Mr Aw, 67, was 100 per cent to blame for the accident and the matter at hand was to assess the sums payable.

Among other things, Ms Moi had sought \$6.45 million for loss of future earnings and loss of earning capacity, \$907,804 for loss of pre-trial earnings as well as \$264,248 for medical treatment costs.

It is understood that a large part of her claim arose from financial losses caused by the disruption to her career as a successful intellectual property lawyer, despite attempts to mitigate her losses and rebuild her income.

These attempts included setting up her own law firm and consulting company as well as taking on roles as adjunct associate professor at the National University of Singapore and associate lecturer at Republic Polytechnic.

Although Ms Moi sought \$7.6 million in damages in a motor traffic accident, the sum pales in comparison to the case of cyclist Siew Pick Chiang in a non-traffic case.

Ms Siew was struck by overhead cables while riding on a pavement along Pasir Ris Drive 8 on Oct 15, 2009.

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She claimed more than \$26 million in damages but the High Court awarded her \$8.65 million in 2016 for serious post-traumatic stress disorder, among other things, and the costs that followed.



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