Consecutive: Examination of the Plaintiff

**Good morning sir, please state your name and spell it for the record.**

My name is Frank Castro.

**Mr. Castro, where do you presently reside?**

I live on Willow Street number 199, in the Bronx.

**And…who do you live there with, Mr. Castro?**

I live there with my wife and four children.

**Are you presently employed, Mr. Castro?**

Not at the present time. You know, I haven’t been able to work since the accident; it left me in really bad shape.

**Well, before the accident, were you employed?**

Oh yeah, of course.

**What type of work did you do?**

I worked at a print shop.

**And…how long had you been working at the print shop before the accident?**

I had been working at that job for more than seven years, and they really liked me there because I have always been an honest man and very reliable in everything I do.

**Yes, I understand. Now Mr. Castro, at the time this accident occurred, was your job within walking distance from your home, or did you have to take a bus or train?**

Well, let me tell you, when I first started working at the print shop, I did live far away; that is why my wife and I decided to move to the Bronx.

**Very well, please go on.**

We were very fortunate to find an apartment that was five blocks from the print shop, many times I had time to go home for lunch.

**Would you say that the print shop is located in a residential or in a commercial area?**

Well, in that area there are some very nice houses, but there are more businesses than residences so I’d say it’s a commercial zone.

**Now, Mr. Castro, I want you to think back to the morning of April 4th, 1983. Did you walk to work that day?**

April fourth was the day of the accident…yeah.

**Yes, but did you walk to work that day?**

Yeah,yeah, of course I went to work. I was always on time, I almost never missed work. When you have four children you can’t afford the luxury of skipping work all the time. You know how hard it is to find a good job. Besides, I really enjoyed working for that company.

**On that occasion, sir, how did you get to your job? Did you walk?**

Yes, I walked to work as usual.

**Mr. Castro, what were the weather conditions on the morning of April 4th?**

Let’s see…that was a sunny morning even though it was still a bit chilly.

**Now, Mr. Castro, please tell us what happened when you got to the intersection of North and Pine streets, the intersection you had to cross in order to get to the print shop.**

Well, when I got to the corner of North and Pine, I stopped for a second to wait for the green light; as soon as the light changed I started to cross. I swear I hadn’t walked more than three steps when I felt a huge blow from behind. I next felt terrible pain in my left leg. I don’t know exactly what happened. I only know that I fell forward; I went headlong into the pavement.

**Did you lose consciousness at this time Mr. Castro?**

No, I didn’t lose consciousness, but I was a little bit dazed, yeah.

**Mr. Castro, what was the first thing you noticed as you were lying there, face down on the street?**

Well, I remember feeling sharp pain in my left leg, I tried moving it but I couldn’t.

**Did anyone come to your assistance at this time?**

Quite a bit of people started gathering around me, and I still couldn’t move my leg. Finally someone told me not to move, that an ambulance was on its way. I did feel a little better when I heard this.

**And…did the ambulance eventually arrive?**

Yes, the paramedics arrived. They very carefully picked me up and placed me on a stretcher; then, while I was still strapped to the stretcher, they lifted me into the ambulance and took me to the emergency room.

**What happens…I’m sorry, what happened once you were brought into the emergency room?**

The nurses got there…sorry, the nurses cut off the left leg of the pants I was wearing and started taking x-rays of my leg with a portable machine they had there. They also hooked my right arm up to an IV and drew some blood.

**Go on Mr. Castro, what else did they do for you at the hospital?**

Well, at that time the doctor arrived. He injected me with some anaesthesia and I fell asleep. I don’t know what happened after that.

**Mr. Castro did you lose consciousness at any time before the anesthesia was administered to you?**

No, I didn’t lose consciousness at any moment, though the pain was so bad I almost cried.

**I understand. When you came out of the anaesthesia, what happened? How were you feeling at that time?**

I felt my head was very heavy and I was kind of out of it. My leg was hurting a lot, it was throbbing. When I was able to sit up on the bed, I saw they had put a cast on me all the way from my big toe to my groin.

**And, how long did you have to stay at the hospital Mr. Castro?**

I was there for about eight days.

**During your stay at the hospital, what else did the doctors do for you? If anything**.

They didn’t do much really. The orthopedist went to see me the next day and explained that, according to the x-rays, it looked like I had a broken femur, tibia or fibula, but that he wasn’t sure yet.

**Did they tell you anything else at that time Mr. Castro?**

As it turned out, I had in fact broken my femur. I also had a dislocated knee joint.

**Did the doctor, the orthopedist, did he say anything to you at this time? Anything else?**

He explained that I had to try to leave my leg still because that was the function of the cast they had put on me.

**And…what function is that?**

Well, to hold down the fractured bones, so that they could properly fuse together.

**Did the doctor prescribe any type of medicine for you while you were in the hospital Mr. Castro?**

I think the only medicine they gave me were some painkillers, because I was in a lot of pain. My leg felt swollen.

**Do you remember if the doctor gave you any medications to reduce the swelling in your leg?**

Yes, I think so.

**And…aside from the swelling and the pain in your leg, Mr. Castro, did you experience any other discomforts during the time you were in the hospital?**

Well, I couldn’t sleep at night.

**Why was that Mr. Castro? Was it because of the pain?**

It was simply because lying in bed all day made my body go numb. I also began to suffer from terrible back pain. I guess the back pain was a result of being in bed 24 hours a day.

**I understand. Thank you very much for your time Mr. Castro, we’re all done here.**

You’re welcome.