

Cases against trucking company could get consolidated

Third I-90 crash lawsuit filed against Frontline

By ERIC R. OLSON
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Another victim of the Interstate 90 crash that killed eight women on Oct. 1 is suing the trucking company whose driver is accused of causing the crash.

Dr. Draga Vasselinovitch, 79, of Chicago, filed a lawsuit Wednesday against Frontline Transportation Co., of Elk Grove Village, LaGrange attorney G. Grant Dixon, III said. The lawsuit alleges that Frontline driver Vincente Zepeda, 49, of Chicago, showed wanton disregard for the safety of others when he caused the crash.

Vasselinovitch was one of 21 people aboard the tour bus carrying members of International Women Associates back from Rockford. She was seated directly behind the bus driver when the Frontline Transportation truck, which was driven by Zepeda, rear-ended the bus.

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G. Grant Dixon III
Attorney

Investigators have determined that the brakes on the trailer Zepeda was pulling that day were not working properly, and said the accident was caused by his failure to stop in time.

After the crash, Vasselinovitch was treated for injuries at Sherman Hospital in Elgin, but was released the next day, hospital officials said. The physical injuries she sustained were minor, but the crash was

very traumatic for her psychologically, Dixon said.

"The carnage she saw, the lady next to her died, the two ladies across the aisle from her both died," Dixon said. "These are two ladies she spent a great deal of time with and ... to watch those people die in that horrible, horrible crash was just something she was not able to stand."

Frontline's attorney, Bradley Schwartz, declined to comment Wednesday.

The lawsuit was filed in Cook County civil court and seeks unspecified damages against Frontline. Two other Cook County lawsuits have been filed by survivors of the crash, seeking damages against Frontline and in one case, Zepeda. The cases could be consolidated and heard by one judge, officials have said.

Police and prosecutors still are investigating the crash to determine whether criminal charges should be filed against Zepeda.