

MOTOR TORT

Jerome Johnson v. Todd Bussert and United States of America

Court: U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

Case Number: 97-2197

Proceedings: Bench trial.

Judge: William Bryant

Outcome: Settled prior to trial.

Dates - Incident: Oct. 14, 1996;

Filing: Feb. 24, 1997; **Disposition:** May 7, 2001.

Plaintiff: Jerome Johnson.

Plaintiff Attorney: Steven Van Grack; Van Grack, Axelson and Williamowsky.

Defendant: Todd Bussert and United States of America

Defense Attorney: David Grimaldi, Kathleen Frye and Scott Harris; Martell, Donnelly, Grimaldi & Gallagher and U.S. Attorney's Office.

Injuries Claimed: Limbs.

Amount Sought: \$300,000

Award: \$121,500.

Location: Rock Creek Parkway near Waterside Drive

Case Information: Plaintiff's vehicle was struck head on by the defendant driving the wrong direction from Waterside Drive onto Rock Creek Parkway on the morning of Columbus Day. The normal rush hour traffic pattern was reversed. Plaintiff claimed that the defendant was negligent in driving the wrong direction on a one-way street and the United States was negligent in using inadequate, confusing, poorly maintained traffic signage, as well as changing one-way traffic patterns despite their own studies which recommended improvements to signage and the discontinuance of one-way traffic patterns.