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MARTHA CECILIA AYMACANA AND ALEX MANCERA V. ALLISON BETH DONOHUE

Case No. 98CA7294

Verdict Date: July 18, 2000

**TOPIC:** Motor Vehicle Auto Accident - Turning - Right-of-way Counterclaim

**RESULT:** Verdict on liability in favor of Aymacana and Mancera.  
Defense verdict as to Donohue's counterclaim. See Editor's Note.

**INJURY:** Aymacana - fractures of left clavicle and metacarpal of left hand, bilateral shoulder injuries requiring arthroscopic acromioplasty, soft tissue knee injuries requiring multiple arthroscopic procedures. She claimed \$ 59,274 in specials.  
Mancera - soft tissue neck and shoulder injuries. Donohue - fractures of nose, metacarpals of left hand and back fracture at L3 and soft tissue neck, back, right ankle and knee sprains resulting in a permanent injury. She claimed \$ 14,270 in specials.

**STATE:** District Of Columbia

**COUNTY:** District of Columbia

**COURT:** Superior Court

**JUDGE:** Steffen W. Graae

**PLAINTIFF PROFILE:**

Age: Aymacana 40; Mancera; Donohue 18

Sex: Female, Male & Female

Occupation: Aymacana - Bookkeeper; Mancera - Student; Donohue -  
College Student

Marital Status: Single

**PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY:** Douglas L. Sparks, Washington (Aymacana);  
Shanta Ramson, Burtonsville (Donohue Counterclaim)

**DEFENDANT ATTORNEY:** Wade Gallagher, Rockville (Donohue); Richard  
D. Corcoran, Silver Spring (Aymacana)

**FACTS:** Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Aymacana was operating her vehicle on southbound North Capitol Street with her son, Plaintiff Mancera, as a passenger. Defendant/Counterclaimant Donohue, who was operating her own vehicle, had just turned onto northbound North Capitol Street from E Street. As the vehicles approached the Massachusetts Avenue intersection, Aymacana made a left turn in front of Donohue's vehicle, resulting in a collision.

Plaintiffs alleged that they were making a left turn on a green arrow when they were struck by Donohue's speeding vehicle.

Defendant/Counterclaimant contended that she was proceeding northbound on a green light when Aymacana suddenly turned left in front of her without signaling her intentions.

**PLAINTIFF EXPERTS:**

Robert E. Collins, M.D. - Orthopedist - Washington DC

**DEFENDANT EXPERTS:**

A. Roy Rosenthal, M.D. - Orthopedist - Silver Spring MD

**INSURANCE:** GEICO; USAA

**JURY DELIBERATIONS:** 20 minutes

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Aymacana and Mancera received \$ 85,000 pursuant to an agreement reached before trial. Per Aymacana's counsel, videos demonstrated that vehicles traveling at normal speeds from E Street (where Donohue had turned onto North Capitol), could not reach Massachusetts Avenue on a green light.

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