

**KOEPKE & HILTABRAND**  
Attorneys at Law

**Katherine E. Ress**

University of Wisconsin-Madison - Bachelor of Arts/Political Science and History (2004)  
The John Marshall Law School - Juris Doctor (2008)  
Admitted to Practice in Illinois 2008; U.S. District Court 2010

**Professional Affiliations:**

Sangamon County Bar Association  
Illinois State Bar Association  
Adjuster's Association of Central Illinois  
Defense Research Institute

**Practice Areas:**

Civil Defense Litigation  
Workers' Compensation

**TRIALS:**

*Thompson v. AAA Construction* (November 2010) (As counsel for the plaintiff)

The Plaintiffs brought a three count claim against the Defendant alleging breach of contract, negligence and fraud stemming from the Defendant's construction of a swimming pool and concrete patio in the Plaintiffs' backyard. Judgment was entered in the Plaintiffs' favor on all counts and Plaintiffs were awarded \$29,084.83 in damages.

*Miller v. Statler-Hughes* (October 2010)

The Plaintiffs brought a personal injury action against the Defendant for injuries resulting from a high impact rear-end collision. Defendant admitted liability but disputed the extent of the Plaintiffs' injury claim. As a result of the collision, the Plaintiff, James Miller, claimed that he sustained a permanent neck injury. Plaintiff, Florine Miller, alleged that she experienced a neck and shoulder injury and suffers from emotional distress as a result of the accident. The Plaintiffs asked the jury for a combined total of over \$50,000.00. The jury rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiffs in the amount of \$

*Kara v. Illini Taxi* (September 2010)

The Plaintiff brought a personal injury action for injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident involving one of the Defendant's

taxi cabs. Prior to trial, Summary Judgment was awarded in Plaintiff's favor on the issues of agency, liability and proximate cause. At the close of all evidence, the Court directed a verdict in the Plaintiff's favor on the issue of damages for medical treatment. Plaintiff asked the jury for \$275,000 and the jury returned a verdict in the amount of \$155,632.03 for past and future medical expenses, pain and suffering and loss of normal life. The Defendant has filed an appeal which is now pending.

*Collins v Fennell* (June 2010)

The Plaintiff brought a personal injury lawsuit against the defendant. The Plaintiff claimed that the defendant negligently pulled out of a driveway and into the vehicle in which she was a passenger which was traveling on the roadway. As a result of the accident, the Plaintiff claimed she sustained significant soft tissue injuries which required almost 3 months of treatment. Judgment was entered in favor of the Plaintiff and against the Defendant in the amount of \$5,411.23.

*Zimmerman v Phillips* (May 2010)

The plaintiff brought a personal injury and property damage lawsuit against the Defendant. The plaintiff claimed that the defendant made a left hand turn in front of the plaintiff, causing a collision. The plaintiff claimed soft tissue injuries to his neck and back which required over a year of chiropractic treatment. In addition, the plaintiff claimed damage to the motor home that he had been driving as well as lost profits from his painted horse business that resulted from the incapacity of the motor home. The jury rendered a verdict in the amount of \$8055.99, less than the defendant's last pre-trial offer.

*Lowrance v Speedlube* (April 2010)

The plaintiff brought a property damage lawsuit against the defendant, Speedlube, claiming that the defendant negligently performed radiator services on his vehicle, causing his vehicle to overheat and the engine to crack. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the defendant and against the plaintiff.

*McMillan v Insure One/ Affirmative Insurance* (January 2010)

The plaintiff claimed that the defendant breached its contract of insurance by failing to compensate her for damage she claimed resulted from a single vehicle collision. Judgment was entered in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant in the amount of \$4,800.00.

*Lewellen v. Minich & Frank* (May 2009)

Plaintiff brought a personal injury lawsuit against Defendant Minich and Defendant Frank. Plaintiff was a passenger in the vehicle driven by Defendant Frank. Plaintiff and Defendant Frank claimed that defendant Minich ran a red light, causing her vehicle to collide with the vehicle driven by Defendant French. Plaintiff claimed he suffered significant facial and dental injuries as well as soft tissue injuries to his neck and shoulder, and incurred over \$15,000.00 in medical special damages. The plaintiff asked the jury to find for the plaintiff and against defendant Minich in the amount of \$45,000. The jury rendered a verdict in the amount of \$18,471.73, and found Defendant Minich to be 15% liable for the accident, or \$2,770.76

*Gibson v McClanahan* (July 2009)

Plaintiff brought a property damage claim, alleging that Defendant ran a stop sign and his vehicle collided with the plaintiff's vehicle as the plaintiff was pulling out of a parking space just passed the intersection. At the close of the plaintiff's case in chief, defendant filed a Motion for Directed Verdict which was granted.