

Verdict awards Dupont woman \$1M

Woman severely hurt when she fell on ice outside restaurant 4 years ago.

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WILKES-BARRE — An area woman who was injured in a fall four years ago outside the Chili's restaurant in Wilkes-Barre Township was awarded nearly \$1 million after a trial in Luzerne County court.

The verdict, handed down Friday in the case of Kelli Kaminski, came after a four-day trial before Judge Joseph Musto.

Kaminski, 29, of Dupont, was

injured Dec. 16, 2005, when she slipped on ice in the restaurant's parking lot, said Kaminski's attorney, Melissa Scartelli.

Kaminski suffered a severe ankle fracture that required surgery to have a steel plate installed, Scartelli said. She later developed complications due to nerve damage. The injury limited her ability to work.

The jury awarded Kaminski \$250,000 for past and future medical expenses, \$450,000 for past and future lost earnings and

A restaurant lawyer had maintained the woman was responsible for her injuries because she was aware the parking lot was icy when she was injured.

said.

Scartelli said she believes the crucial factor in the verdict was that Kaminski had notified a manager that the parking lot was icy about two hours before she fell. The manager indicated he would throw rock salt in the park-

\$300,000 for past and future pain and suffering. The verdict was reduced by \$100,000 based on the panel's finding that Kaminski was 10 percent responsible for her injuries, Scartelli

ing lot but was unable to salt the entire lot because of time constraints.

The restaurant, which is owned locally by Six Shooter Inc., of Shavertown, was represented by attorney Norman Namey of Cardoni and Associates.

Namey said the restaurant had maintained Kaminski was responsible for her injuries because she was aware the parking lot was icy. He said attorneys are now reviewing the case and anticipate filing post-trial motions seeking to overturn the verdict.

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