

# TRAILBLAZER

trail•bla•zer/ tráyblayzər /

1. person who marks a new track through wild country
2. pioneer

## \$46 million awarded in Norfolk Southern crash

### VERDICT IS LARGEST IN VIRGINIA'S HISTORY IN A PERSONAL INJURY CASE

A Northern Virginia jury slammed Hampton Road's biggest company Thursday with the largest verdict ever in a Virginia personal injury case: \$46 million against Norfolk Southern Corp. for a 1997 derailment.

With interest, the verdict could come to \$60 million – triple the previous record for a personal injury case in Virginia.

The verdict stems from a crash in which a Norfolk Southern train barreled off the tracks and into a gas station in Gainesville, Va.,

near Manassas, smashing through an office where the manager was working.

The manager – Donald J. French, ... now 38, of Williamsburg – survived but suffered severe injuries, including brain damage.

*"It is truly justice for Mr. French. He's a man who is going to need support care for the rest of his life. He will need someone 16 hours a day, someone to act as a second brain for him.."*

*-The Virginian Pilot 10/14/00*

## NEVER UNDERESTIMATE LAY WITNESSES

Our array of experts was impressive, and we felt that the medical evidence more than adequately demonstrated Don French's

traumatic brain injury.

However, once we began to talk to the eye-witnesses and former co-workers, we became convinced that their highly personal stories about Don's radical personality change and memory loss after the wreck were the most irrefutable evidence. We called each and every one to tell their stories

during the three-week trial. Don French cried uncontrollably when the jury read its verdict, a verdict which validated all our hard work and careful preparation.



*\*Case subsequently settled for confidential sum.*

WARNING: No lawyer can or should guarantee results to a potential client. Every case presents different legal challenges. This brochure is LEGAL ADVERTISING presented to show legal strategies that were adopted in the particular cases involved.