

# Missouri Lawyers

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## WEEKLY

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### ■ \$3.2 MILLION SETTLEMENT (OUT OF STATE)

## Motor vehicle accident resolved with settlement

### MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

- Venue: Riley County, Kansas, District Court
- Case Number/Date: RL-2020-CV-000155/Oct. 20, 2021
- Injuries: Traumatic brain injury, fractures to the forearm, tibia, fibula, humerus, L1-L3, and clavicle.
- Insurer: United Fire Group (for Hood HTG Air PLG Electric Inc.)
- Caption: Bruce Reed v. Hood HTG Air PLG Electric Inc. and Richard Lawrence II
- Plaintiff's Attorneys: Scott Bethune, Wes Shumate and Jared Brown, Davis, Bethune & Jones, Kansas City
- Defendants' Attorneys: John Schultz and Nick Savio, Franke Schultz & Mullen, Kansas City (for Hood Heating); Jared Hiatt and Jacob Peterson, Clark, Mize & Linville; Salina, Kansas (for Lawrence)

**BY ALAN SCHER ZAGIER**  
*Special to Missouri Lawyers Media*

A 66-year-old Kansas man who suffered a traumatic brain injury and multiple fractures after a head-on collision on U.S. Highway 24 near Manhattan has settled a lawsuit against the other driver and that man's employer for \$3.2 million.

Bruce Edward Reed of Riley, Kansas, was heading home



Scott S. Bethune



Wes Shumate



Jared G. Brown

shortly before 5 p.m. on Nov. 26, 2019, when his westbound Mercury Marquis sedan was struck by a Chevy Silverado pickup truck traveling in the opposite direction on the highway. That vehicle was owned by Hood Heating and Plumbing of Concordia, Kansas.

Both men were trapped inside their vehicles and had to be extricated by firefighters, though the pickup driver did not report any injuries to police at the scene. Reed's injuries included two broken arms and a broken femur.

The suit was handled by the Kansas City firm of Davis, Bethune & Jones, with records provided by the firm showing the settlement with the Kansas business' insurer was reached in late October.

Defense attorneys for the business and its driver did not respond to requests for comment.