

## **PREMISES LIABILITY**

### **Dangerous floor mat near hospital exit**

Sharon Haste, 73, was assisting her son as he left the Lutheran Medical Center in a wheelchair. As she followed the hospital employee pushing the wheelchair through an exit door, Haste fell on an area mat that had bunched up near the door. She suffered a fractured left shoulder and a fractured right knee. She required inpatient rehabilitation and two shoulder surgeries, including a shoulder replacement. Her medical expenses were \$240,000.

Haste sued the hospital, alleging the mat constituted a dangerous condition in that it was too lightweight and lacked sufficient backing, causing it to bunch up near the doorway.

The jury awarded more than \$1 million, including interest.

**CITATION:** *Haste v. SCL Health-Front Range*, No. 2016-CV-030971 (Colo. Dist. Ct. Jefferson Cnty. June 7, 2017). **PLAINTIFF**

**COUNSEL:** AAJ members Ross Ziev and Daniel Caplis, both of Denver. **PLAINTIFF**

**EXPERTS:** Anne Stodola, engineering, Boulder, Colo.; and Nimesh Patel, orthopedics, Golden, Colo.

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