

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department

1020

CA 11-00312

PRESENT: CENTRA, J.P., FAHEY, SCONIERS, GREEN, AND MARTOCHE, JJ.

BEATRICE S. PHELPS, PLAINTIFF-RESPONDENT,

V

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

MELISSA A. RANGER, CHRISTOPHER M. DWYER,
JAMIE C. COGAN, STEPHANIE M. COGAN,
DEFENDANTS-APPELLANTS,
ET AL., DEFENDANTS.

MITCHELL GORIS & STOKES, LLC, CAZENOVIA (PATRICK J. O'SULLIVAN OF COUNSEL), FOR DEFENDANT-APPELLANT MELISSA A. RANGER.

MELVIN & MELVIN, PLLC, SYRACUSE (MICHAEL R. VACCARO OF COUNSEL), FOR DEFENDANT-APPELLANT CHRISTOPHER M. DWYER.

O'SHEA MCDONALD & STEVENS, LLP, ROME (TIMOTHY BRIAN O'SHEA OF COUNSEL), FOR DEFENDANTS-APPELLANTS JAMIE C. COGAN AND STEPHANIE M. COGAN.

ROBERT E. LAHM, PLLC, SYRACUSE (ROBERT E. LAHM OF COUNSEL), FOR PLAINTIFF-RESPONDENT.

Appeals from an order of the Supreme Court, Oneida County (Bernadette T. Clark, J.), entered May 26, 2010 in a personal injury action. The order denied the motion of defendants Jamie C. Cogan and Stephanie M. Cogan and cross motions of Melissa A. Ranger and Christopher M. Dwyer for summary judgment.

It is hereby ORDERED that the order so appealed from is unanimously affirmed without costs.

Memorandum: Plaintiff commenced this action seeking, inter alia, damages for injuries she allegedly sustained when the vehicle in which she was a passenger, driven by defendant Melissa A. Ranger, collided head-on with a vehicle driven by defendant Christopher M. Dwyer. The vehicle driven by Dwyer was then struck by a vehicle driven by defendant Jamie C. Cogan and owned by defendant Stephanie M. Cogan. Supreme Court properly denied the motion of the Cogan defendants and the cross motions of Dwyer and Ranger seeking summary judgment dismissing the complaint and any cross claims against them on the ground that they were confronted with an emergency situation, i.e., blowing snow that produced white-out conditions. Even assuming, arguendo, that the defendant drivers were confronted with an emergency situation, we conclude that "there are issues of fact with respect to

the appropriateness of the conduct of the [defendant drivers] in light of all of the circumstances, including the severely inclement weather, and thus summary judgment is not appropriate" (*Sossin v Lewis*, 9 AD3d 849, 851, amended on rearg on other grounds 11 AD3d 1045). Contrary to the contention of Dwyer, we further conclude that there are issues of fact whether the vehicle driven by Ranger crossed into his lane and, if so, whether he acted reasonably under the circumstances (see *Rowen v Harris*, 45 AD3d 1420). Finally, there is a triable issue of fact whether there was only a single impact between the vehicle driven by Dwyer and that driven by Ranger, or whether there was a second impact to the vehicle driven by Ranger when the vehicle driven by Cogan struck Dwyer's vehicle and pushed it into the vehicle driven by Ranger (see generally *Bauman v Benlivi*, 291 AD2d 470).