

Quantifying Personal Damages from Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, and Employment Discrimination

Civil litigation involving damages from personal injury, wrongful death, and employment discrimination often requires financial calculations referred to as “*personal damages*”. Here at David Hammel Forensics, performing services in personal damages engagements generally uses time-value-of-money concepts and analytical skills. The determination of the elements of the calculation often requires analysis of historical financial and economic data, including surveys and related studies.

Loss Calculation

Many cases involving personal damages may require us to quantify the net economic losses sustained by the claimant. These losses may include lost earnings, fringe benefits, household services, and additional medical expenses. We would determine the monetary amount that would have been realized “but for” the personal damages incident, apply reductions for amounts actually received and then add the additional medical expenses caused by the incident. The loss period is generally the claimant’s worklife expectancy, or life expectancy, depending on the injury and the loss.

Types of Engagements

Testifying Expert

When retained as a testifying expert, our function is to assist the judge, jury, arbitrator or mediator in understanding the evidence or to determine a fact in issue. Our client must remember that we are an advocate for the opinion with objectivity, meaning we place an unbiased opinion on our work.

Consultant

We may be retained as a consultant to advise the client on personal damages for purpose of settlement negotiations. The work, unlike that of the expert witness, may be shielded from discovery through the attorney work-product privilege.

These litigation services are part of David Hammel Forensics practice group and may include fact finding, damage calculation, document management, preparation of demonstrative evidence, expert testimony and other professional services.

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