**Uber Seeks to Have California Suit by Woman Hit on Freeway Thrown out**

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(Bloomberg) --

Uber Technologies Inc. is trying to fend off a lawsuit by a woman who claims she was seriously injured after her driver ordered her out of the car in the middle of a California freeway.

The ridesharing company is asking a San Francisco state judge to throw the case out on the grounds it should have been filed in Santa Barbara, where it says the “alleged incident” happened after a night of drinking.

On the way home from downtown Santa Barbara, the driver -- “without legal justification or good cause” -- pulled over to the median and ordered the woman and her brother out of the car, according to the complaint. Margaret Schimmel says she was struck by a hit-and-run driver and suffered “catastrophic injuries” when she tried to cross to the shoulder of the freeway.

The siblings accuse Uber of negligence and fraud and say the company falsely represented to the public that it provides a safe alternative to driving at night after drinking.

Uber says the case shouldn’t proceed in its hometown because of the inconvenience and expense of gathering evidence from witnesses. The company also argues it should be spared from punitive damages because it doesn’t have a “direct relationship” with the driver who was working as a contractor.

An Uber representative declined to comment.

**Related:**

* [More Relatives of Victim of Uber Driverless Car Crash Hire Lawyer](https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2018/04/01/484949.htm)
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* [Uber Cut Back on Safety Sensors on Volvo Involved in Fatal Accidents: Reuters](https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2018/03/27/484542.htm)
* [Uber Drivers in Turkey Fear for Lives After Alleged Attacks by Traditional Cab Drivers](https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2018/03/20/483861.htm)

**North Idaho Insurance, Summit Now Under Alliant Brand**

Two Sandpoint, Idaho insurance brokerages will now operate under the Alliant Insurance Services brand.

North Idaho Insurance and Summit Insurance Resources Group have a new name and central location. Both firms will assume the Alliant Insurance Services name, operating from the company’s downtown Sandpoint location.

The change follows Alliant’s acquisition of Summit in May 2017 and North Idaho in April 2015.

North Idaho and Summit’s management team and staff have made the transition to Alliant and will continue to serve their client base as members of the Alliant team.

The combined firms offer a mix of insurance products and services, including commercial insurance, personal lines, employee benefits and risk management.

Newport Beach, Calif.-based Alliant Insurance Services provides property/casualty, workers’ compensation, employee benefits, surety, and financial products and services.

**Utah Construction Firms Agree to Settle Whistleblower Lawsuit for $1.2M**

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) \_ Two Utah construction companies have agreed to pay $1.2 million to settle a whistleblower's lawsuit alleging abuse of a federal program that helps small businesses.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says the Salt Lake City-based Big-D Construction Corp. already has paid more than $1 million and the Ogden-based Creative Times Dayschool Inc. will pay $150,000 in the coming months as part of the settlement agreement.

Neither company admits any wrongdoing or liability.

The Salt Lake Tribune reports an ex-worker at Big-D filed a whistleblower suit in federal court in 2011 accusing the firms of violating the rules of the Small Business Administration program.

The suit said Creative Times qualified for the program and was awarded a government contract, but that the majority of the work was done by Big-D, which has ineligible partly because it has more than 1,000 employees.

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Information from: The Salt Lake Tribune, [http://www.sltrib.com](http://www.sltrib.com/)

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