

Celebrated cellist wins \$11M in ‘devastating’ slip-and-fall suit: lawyer

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Jessica Elkhatib

A prolific cellist won an almost \$11 million verdict in Westchester County Supreme Court on Friday for injuries she got following a spill in a gourmet food market parking lot that now hampers her ability to play the instrument, according to her lawyer.

Jessica Elkhatib — who has played in Broadway’s “Kinky Boots” orchestra, on one of Beyoncé’s albums and during performances for Michael Bublé and Katy Perry — sued Scarsdale market Balducci’s in March 2016 after she says

she fell on black ice in their parking lot in January of that year, according to court papers and her deposition.

The 40-year-old mother of one — who has also performed on “SNL” with Sam Smith, in the “America’s Got Talent” orchestra and on “Late Night with Conan O’Brien” — injured her elbow, fractured her right shoulder and herniated a disk in her spine, her lawyer Jason Paris told The Post.

The injuries left her unable to play the cello for longer than five or 10 minutes without pain and numbness, she and Paris said.

“Jessica has been working very hard for the last four years to try to get back to the point where she can perform and is optimistic that she will be able to do it again as soon as possible,” Paris said.

Elkhatib — a 16-year veteran elementary school orchestra teacher — was awarded \$10.9 million for past and future pain and suffering, past and future lost earnings and for future medical expenses, according to Paris.

“I have been intensely studying the cello since I was 10 years old, and having such a devastating injury such as this has completely changed the trajectory of my life,” Elkhatib told The Post.

“Anyone who is a professional musician understands that it takes drive passion and determination to get to this point in your career. Having an injury stop that forward motion is devastating,” she said.

“I’m grateful that it’s over. I don’t feel it’s possible to really feel happy when something tragic like this happens to you. I’m looking forward to moving on to the next chapter of my life,” Elkhatib said.

“It’s unfortunate that our client had to wait nearly four years — but a jury finally delivered justice. Although we understand that no amount of money can replace the quality of life she had before this accident, we are grateful that the citizens of Westchester County helped make things somewhat better,” Paris said.

Lawyers for Balducci’s didn’t return requests for comment.