

Woman shot by trooper awarded \$8 million

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The Associated Press

PORTLAND — A federal jury awarded \$8 million yesterday to a woman who was shot in the shoulder by a state trooper during a drunken driving stop.

The U.S. District Court jury in Eugene deliberated just six hours before issuing its verdict for Amy Louise Conroy, 43, of Mosier, who sued retired Senior Trooper David Henry, alleging police brutality during a November 1997 traffic stop.

Conroy claimed Henry beat her

more than a dozen times with a metal baton and sprayed her with chemicals before shooting her in the back after stopping her on a remote stretch of U.S. Highway 395 about 12 miles north of Lakeview.

Conroy was returning to her home near The Dalles from a business trip in Reno, Nev., when Henry stopped her. She later tested over the legal limit for alcohol, her lawyer, Edwin Budge, said yesterday.

Henry claimed in a police report that he used an increasing amount of force because Conroy was "passively resisting" arrest, Budge said.

Conroy eventually "escaped to her car," where she was shot in the back, Budge said.

"Their claim was she was pointing what looked like a gun, but it turned out to be a bright yellow can of Mace she kept on her key chain," Budge said. "But she was clearly shot in the back, so she must have been turned away from him, not pointing anything at him, when he shot her."

Oregon State Police spokesman Lt. Gregg Hastings said the agency did an internal review of the shooting and determined it was justified.