

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA

No. 193PA98

(Filed 25 JUNE 1999)

JOHN N. PIAZZA, individually and as Executor of the Estate of  
EDITH MAY PIAZZA

v.

MICHELLE C. LITTLE and ANNIE LOU PERRY

On discretionary review pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 7A-31 of  
a unanimous decision of the Court of Appeals, 129 N.C. App. 77,  
497 S.E.2d 429 (1998), affirming an order of summary judgment in  
favor of plaintiff entered by Griffin, J., on 31 March 1997, in  
Superior Court, Pitt County. Heard in the Supreme Court  
11 January 1999.

*Ward and Smith, P.A., by Teresa DeLoatch Bryant and  
John M. Martin, for plaintiff-appellee.*

*Yates, McLamb & Weyher, L.L.P., by R. Scott Brown and  
Travis K. Morton, for unnamed defendant-appellant  
Automobile Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut.*

*Battle, Winslow, Scott & Wiley, P.A., by Marshall A.  
Gallop, Jr., on behalf of the North Carolina  
Association of Defense Attorneys, amicus curiae.*

*Ellis, Hooper, Warlick and Morgan, by John Drew  
Warlick, Jr., on behalf of the North Carolina Academy  
of Trial Lawyers, amicus curiae.*

PER CURIAM.

The sole issue in this case is whether N.C.G.S. §  
20-279.21(b)(4) requires an excess personal liability policy to  
provide underinsured motorist (UIM) coverage where such coverage  
is expressly excluded by the terms of the policy. Pursuant to  
the Court's decision in *Progressive Am. Ins. Co. v. Vasquez*, \_\_\_\_

N.C. \_\_\_, \_\_\_ S.E.2d \_\_\_ (June 9, 1999) (No. 286PA98), it does not.

Under the decision in *Progressive*, an excess liability policy such as the one at issue in this case is not a "motor vehicle liability policy" under the terms of N.C.G.S. § 20-279.21(a) and therefore is not subject to the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 20-279.21(b)(3) or (b)(4). Because the terms of the excess liability policy do not provide UIM benefits, and in fact expressly exclude such coverage, plaintiff cannot prevail. See *Progressive Am. Ins. Co.*, \_\_\_ N.C. at \_\_\_, \_\_\_ S.E.2d at \_\_\_, slip op. at 13.

Accordingly, the decision of the Court of Appeals affirming the trial court's entry of summary judgment for plaintiff is reversed. This case is remanded to the Court of Appeals for further remand to the Superior Court, Pitt County for entry of summary judgment for unnamed defendant Automobile Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut.

REVERSED AND REMANDED.

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Justices FRYE and MARTIN dissent for the reasons stated in the dissenting opinion in *Progressive Am. Ins. Co. v. Vasquez*, \_\_\_ N.C. \_\_\_, \_\_\_ S.E.2d \_\_\_ (June 9, 1999) (No. 286PA98).