



\$1M for Fall on Restaurant Floor



PHOTO COURTESY OF TODD LEONARD

DISABLING INJURY TO CLIENT: Todd Leonard says a fall on a slick restaurant floor led to lumbar herniations.

Kapidzic v. McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant: A woman allegedly left disabled by a fall at a restaurant was paid \$1 million on Sept. 12 in settlement of her Bergen County suit.

Mersija Kapidzic claimed that in October 2009, she stepped on a slick floor at McCormick & Schmick's in the Riverside Square Mall in Hackensack and landed on her back. She suffered lumbar herniations, underwent surgeries and was deemed totally disabled by the Social Security Administration, says her lawyer, Todd Leonard of Leonard & Leonard in Morristown.

Kapidzic asserted negligence

and premises liability claims, alleging that McCormick & Schmick's knew of prior falls on site. The restaurant denied liability and attributed the injuries to a prior car accident and a degenerative condition, Leonard says.

The parties settled on Aug. 8 in mediation with retired Superior Court Judge **Anthony Sciuto**, now of counsel with **Maggiano, DiGirolamo & Lizzi** in Fort Lee.

McCormick & Schmick's is insured by Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. and represented by **Joseph Gallo** of **Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker** in Florham Park, who confirms the settlement.

— *By David Gialanella*