



Morris County Auto Case Settles for \$1.2 Million

A man who underwent spinal surgery after a rear-end accident was paid a \$1.2 million settlement in his Morris County suit, *Weintraub v. Cook*, in May.

On Oct. 2, 2014, Morris Weintraub was driving southbound on Interstate 287 in Hanover Township, and, while stopped in traffic, was struck from behind by another motorist, Edward Cook, said Weintraub's lawyer, **Todd Leonard**, who heads a firm in Denville.



The suit claimed that Weintraub, 64 this year, sustained a spinal injury that was initially treated with epidural injections but which later required a one-level fusion procedure at the cervical level. It also claimed that Weintraub sustained a head injury leading to memory issues, and later vision issues, Leonard said.

The defense disputed causation.

Weintraub exhausted his personal injury protection coverage of \$75,000 and had medical bills of \$600,000, according to Leonard.

The parties were scheduled for a July 2 trial when they settled on May 8, during mediation with **Mark Epstein**, a retired Superior Court judge with **Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas** in New Brunswick. The sum, covered by a pair of Chubb Insurance Co. policies issued to Cook, was paid about two weeks later, Leonard said.

William Cunningham of **Kirmser, Lamastra, Cunningham & Skinner** in Whitehouse Station, for Cook, didn't return a call about the case.

— **David Gialanella**