



## Traveler's Tarmac Fall at Newark Airport Yields \$3.1M Settlement

A woman who slipped on ice while disembarking from a US Airways flight at Newark Liberty International Airport agreed to a \$3.1 million settlement in her Essex County suit, *Crawley v. American Airlines Group*, on May 21.

Towanna Crawley was required to disembark onto the tarmac on Feb. 5, 2014, because the commuter plane on which she flew was too small to use a jetway, said her lawyer, **Todd Leonard**. After taking a few steps on the tarmac, she encountered icy pavement and fell.



COURTESY OF TODD LEONARD

**TODD LEONARD**

Crawley sustained injuries to her neck, back, and knee, and underwent three back surgeries and a cervical fusion. She is unable to continue her job as a kidney dialysis technician, said Leonard.

Crawley sued US

Airways and its parent company, American Airlines; the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; Snowlift Inc., a company that was under contract to remove snow and ice; and AFCO AV Ports, a company that was under contract to manage the airport.

The parties settled on May 21 in mediation with retired Superior Court Judge **James Clyne** of **Benchmark Resolutions** in Lambertville.

The settlement calls for Crawley to receive \$3 million from the Port Authority, American Airlines and US Airways. They were insured by AIG Aerospace, which was represented by **Douglas Amster** and **Peter Van Deventer** of **Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard and Smith** in Newark. Amster declined to comment on the case.

Another \$50,000 was paid to the plaintiff on behalf of defendant Snowlift Inc., who was insured by Starr Indemnity and Liability Company, and represented by **Timothy Hourican** of **Brown Gavalas & Fromm** in Clifton. He did not return a call about the case.

Finally, \$50,000 was paid on behalf of AFCO AV Ports Management, who was insured by Ace Property and Casualty Insurance Co. and represented by **Paul Piantino** of **White and Williams** in Newark. He did not return a call.

— **Charles Toutant**