



Head-On Crash Case Settles For \$3.97 Million in Morris

A woman who suffered a traumatic brain injury in a head-on crash received \$3.97 million on July 24 to settle her Morris County suit, *Ellas v. Cavaliere*.

Plaintiff Aliki Ellas was driving north on Bernardsville Road in Mendham Borough on March 28, 2017, when an oncoming car crossed the center line and struck her vehicle head-on. The other driver, Alexander Cavaliere, then 18, could not explain what caused him to lose control of his vehicle, said plaintiff lawyer **Todd Leonard** of the **Todd J. Leonard Law Firm** in Denville. Cavaliere pleaded guilty to a charge of careless driving with a civil reservation in connection with the crash, Leonard said.

Ellas was a local realtor who was driving in the course of her employment at the time of the crash, Leonard said. She has been unable to continue in that job, he said. In addition to the traumatic brain injury, Ellas sustained injury to her inner ear, a right humerus fracture, left femur fracture, and right ankle fracture, which required surgery, according to Leonard.

The defendant didn't dispute that she had permanent orthopedic injuries, but



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disputed the nature and extent of her other injuries, Leonard said.

Ellas' workers' compensation lien was approximately \$500,000, according to Leonard.

The parties settled for \$3.97 million on June 20 in mediation with **Mark Epstein**, a retired Superior

Court judge now with **Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas** in New Brunswick. Payment was received on July 24.

The defendant had an automobile policy with New Jersey Manufacturers with a \$500,000 policy limit, and \$10 million in excess coverage through Chubb Insurance Co. He was represented by **William Cunningham of Kirmser, Lamastra, Cunningham & Skinner** in Whitehouse Station, who did not return a call about the case.

— **Charles Toutant**



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