

\$600,000 Award for a Motor Vehicle Accident

Denville, NJ

Christopher L. Musmanno, Esq., Chair of the Personal Injury Department and Certified Civil Trial Attorney with the law firm of Einhorn, Barbarito, Frost & Botwinick, PC in Denville, NJ, announces a \$600,000 settlement for a motor vehicle accident.

June 2016 Plaintiff was operating a motor vehicle when Defendant failed to maintain directional control of his vehicle while intoxicated, crossing over the double yellow line into Plaintiff's lane of travel, striking Plaintiff's vehicle head-on and seriously injuring Plaintiff. Plaintiff was unable to exit her vehicle, and emergency services personnel were forced to pry open the door. She was transported via ambulance to the hospital where she complained of neck pain, left side pain and right knee pain. She underwent a battery of diagnostic tests, including x-rays, CT scans and MRIs which revealed the following injuries: displaced type III dens fracture with extension into the left foramen transversarium at C2; adjacent hematoma and soft tissue indentation adjacent to the C2 vertebral body; left wrist displaced fracture of the distal fifth (5th) metacarpal with slight volar angulation; a fracture of the posterior and lateral tenth (10th) rib; and a nondisplaced fracture of the posterior left ninth (9th) rib. She also had extreme bruising to left side. Plaintiff remained in the hospital for several days where she underwent extensive physical and occupational therapy. After her discharge from the hospital, she was transferred to a rehabilitation center for additional care and therapy, including physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. She thereafter underwent a repeat CT scan of her cervical spine which demonstrated the same obliquely orientated type III dens fracture which extends to the left foramen transversarium with suspected callus formation seen along the fracture margin anteriorly. However, the fracture line seemed more conspicuous than when compared to the prior study and demonstrated increased distance of the C2 fracture. She was thereafter recommended surgical intervention and was transferred and re-admitted to the hospital where she underwent C2 odontoid screw placement surgery.

Prior to the scheduling of a trial, the case settled in the amount of \$600,000.00.