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## \$625,000 for Auto Injuries

**Cuccurullo v. Galinsky:** A Bergen County judge approved a \$625,000 verdict on April 4 for a Park Ridge woman injured in a car crash, though she may recover less due to the defendant's limited insurance.

On Nov. 20, 2004, Carmella Cuccurullo was driving east on New Bridge Road in Hackensack when she was hit by a westbound car that crossed into her lane, according to the suit.

Cuccurullo tore the lateral and medial menisci in her right knee, which required surgery, and injured cervical and lumbar disks, says her attorney, **Donald Caminiti** of **Breslin & Breslin** in Hackensack. Now 44, she still has back pain, he says.

Cuccurullo sued the other driver, Esmira Galinsky, now 42, of New Milford, who testified that an unknown car went through a stop sign and caused

Galinsky to lose control of her car.

But on March 25, the jury found 100 percent fault in Galinsky, whose policy with Rutgers Insurance Co. in Cherry Hill has a liability limit of \$100,000.

Due to the verdict, Cuccurullo will not be able to recover from her \$250,000 uninsured motorist coverage with Amica Ins. Co. of Lincoln, R.I. **Denise Luckenbach** of **Sellar Richardson** in Roseland represented Amica at trial.

Galinsky's attorney, **Matthew Dorsi**, of **DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis & Lehrer** in Warren, says he will move for a new trial because Superior Court Judge **Mark Russello** did not admit certain evidence and the jury charge did not mention the phantom driver.

— *By Maria Vogel-Short*