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Man, 79, settles in head-on accident

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BRIDGEPORT — A Stratford woman, severely injured in a head-on car crash three years ago, was awarded \$400,000 Thursday. The settlement for Sally Decker, 65, was reached as the lawsuit against the other driver, 79-year-old Jacob Katz, of Stratford, was about to go to trial in Superior Court.

"My client suffered a very serious injury that impacted her ability to enjoy life and under all the circumstances it's a reasonable resolution," said Harold **Rosnick**, who with Barry Knott, represented Decker.

Katz's lawyer, Kevin Murphy, was unavailable for comment.

According to **Rosnick**, on March 20, 2002, Decker had just completed volunteer work at a church and was driving north on River Road in Stratford toward her home when Katz, who was driving south, crossed the center line and struck Decker's car head-on.

Decker was trapped in her car and had to be cut out by firefighters. **Rosnick** said she suffered broken ribs, a collapsed lung and a crushed right arm in the crash.

He said she had several operations at Bridgeport Hospital, but for more than a month, was unable to dress and eat without assistance. **Rosnick** said his client continues to suffer a 26 percent permanent disability of her right wrist.

"Mrs. Decker is a cancer survivor and had completed her chemotherapy treatments only a short time prior to the incident," **Rosnick** said. "She had only begun to enjoy her life again when it was nearly taken away from her again."

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