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Trucking firm reaches \$3m deal with disabled motorist

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BRIDGEPORT - A former supermarket deli worker, injured when his car was struck from behind by a tractor-trailer truck five years ago, was awarded more than \$3 million in a settlement Tuesday with the trucking company. The case was in its second week of trial before a Superior Court jury when Dom Moffo Trucking of Prospect agreed to pay a total of \$3,002,522 to 27-year-old Jorge A. Galicia of Bridgeport. "We are pleased Mr. Galicia will be taken care of financially for the rest of his life," said his lawyer, Harold **Rosnick**, who tried the case with Nicole Levine.

Dom Moffo, owner of the trucking company, would not comment on the settlement.

Galicia, who worked in the deli department at ShopRite in Norwalk, lost the use of most of his left arm in the Dec. 20, 1997, crash. He now works as a cashier at the supermarket.

According to **Rosnick**, Galicia was driving to work in his 1989 Toyota sedan when his car stalled on Interstate 95, just before southbound exit 27. He managed to coast to the right lane and was attempting to restart it when a tractor-trailer truck driven by Emmett Duffy, 49, of Prospect and owned by Moffo, crashed into the rear of his car. The crash caused the rear right wheels of the truck to roll over the rear of the car.

Rosnick said his client spent 20 days in Bridgeport Hospital, but doctors were unable to repair a torn central nerve in his left arm. As a result, he said Galicia has no feeling in his left arm from his elbow to his fingertips.

"For all practical purposes his left arm is useless," he added.

The lawsuit filed against the trucking company by Galicia claimed the truck driver failed to keep a proper lookout and was driving recklessly. The company countered that Galicia was negligent for his own injuries because he failed to provide an adequate warning to motorists by using either flares or warning devices.

State Police didn't cite either driver in the accident.

Under the terms of the settlement, **Rosnick** said his client received \$400,000 up front and the remainder will be paid over his lifetime.

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