



Middlesex County Jury Awards \$6.8 Million to Injured Motorist

In *Gorth v. Stutzman*, a Middlesex County jury on Jan. 11 awarded a Stanhope man \$6.8 million as compensation for injuries he sustained when his car was struck in a chain-reaction collision.

The jury found defendant All Holding Co. and its employee, Lama Stutzman, liable for injuries to plaintiff Joseph Gorth, now 44, in connection with the accident, said Gorth's attorney, **Edward Lutz**, who heads a firm in Parsippany.

Gorth was injured on July 22, 2015. He was a passenger in a car owned by his employer, Dyer Insulation of Rockaway, at the time of the accident. The car in which Gorth was a passenger was on Stelton Road in South Plainfield.

The truck, owned by All Holding of Soudertown, Pennsylvania, and



Edward Lutz

COURTESY OF EDWARD LUTZ

driven by Stutzman, struck another truck from behind, causing a chain reaction that resulted in Gorth's car being struck, Lutz said.

As a result of the accident, the plaintiff sustained a broken back, torn labrum, aggravation of asymptomatic cervical disc herniations, and a vertebral osteomyelitis and discitis at the

fracture site, which required multiple hospitalizations and extensive medical treatment, Lutz said.

Gorth, Lutz said, returned to work after a year, but eventually had to stop working because of continuing pain.

The award will be offset by a \$100,000 workers' compensation lien, Lutz said.

All Holding and Stutzman were the only defendants in the lawsuit, Lutz said.

All Holding's carrier, Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., retained **Nicole Hollingsworth of Viscomi & Lyons** in Morristown to represent All Holding and Stutzman. Hollingsworth didn't return a call about the case.

Middlesex County Superior Court Judge **Melvin Gelade** presided over the four-day trial.

— **Michael Booth**