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## Jury awards former Clifton woman \$3M for injuries suffered in car crash

A Middlesex County jury has awarded a former Clifton woman \$3 million for the injuries she suffered in a crash on the New Jersey Turnpike in Cranbury in 2011.

The jury deliberated about 75 minutes before reaching their verdict May 19, awarding Malaka Korbeh, who was 18 years old at the time of the accident, \$3 million in damages, said her attorney, Edward Lutz of Parsippany.

The verdict was reached after a four-day trial before Superior Court Judge Arthur Bergman in New Brunswick.

Lutz said Korbeh was one of two passengers in a car driven by Jonathan Duran, also of Clifton, on Sept. 3, 2011, and suffered significant, permanent injury to her spine that has resulted in multiple surgeries and will require more surgery.

Lutz said trial testimony revealed Duran was traveling north when traffic slowed approaching Exit 8A.

"Mr. Duran was in the middle lane and couldn't stop," Lutz said. "He cut in front of a car in the left lane, driven by Emmanuel Egbutu of Monroe Township."

The attorney said Egbutu's car hit the rear of Duran's car, causing it to careen off another car and roll over. Egbutu, his wife and a son were also injured in the crash, as was Duran and his other female passenger.

Lutz said the jury found Duran 100 percent responsible for the crash. No blame was placed on Egbutu, also a defendant in the case.

Duran's attorney, Robert Helwig of New Brunswick, could not be reached for comment.

— Sue Epstein