



\$1M in Passaic Motorcycle Case

DeVries v. Daniels: A motorcyclist involved in a crash with a vehicle that he claimed turned in front of him settled his Passaic County suit for \$1 million on Sept. 28.

On July 3, 2016, Jacob DeVries, then 30, was riding northbound on High Crest Drive in West Milford when a motorist coming from the opposite direction, Sheldon Daniels, attempted to turn left in front of DeVries, onto Macopin Terrace, according to DeVries' lawyer, Parsippany solo **Edward Lutz**.

DeVries struck Daniels' vehicle, and was thrown over the handlebars of his motorcycle, causing a torn rotator cuff and tendon damage in his left shoulder, a left elbow injury that led to nerve entrapment, and a spinal injury that led

to a pain condition, his suit claimed. DeVries underwent surgery to his injured shoulder and elbow, but is permanently disabled and cannot lift more than 20 pounds, Lutz said.

DeVries, who previously had ascended to the position of maintenance supervisor at a nursing home, was out of work for nine months and ultimately terminated when his lifting restriction prevented him from performing his job, according to Lutz, who noted that DeVries has since taken a lower-paying job as a car valet at an auto dealership.

The defense disputed DeVries' version of the facts, but witnesses ultimately confirmed his version, Lutz said. The case was set for trial on Oct. 9, but settled two weeks before, after a conference with



EDWARD LUTZ

COURTESY OF EDWARD LUTZ

Superior Court Judge **Thomas Brogan**.

Daniels was insured by State Farm and represented by **Anthony Coppola** of **Gregory P. Helfrich & Associates** in Summit. Coppola didn't return a call seeking comment.

— **David Gialanella**