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Bus vs. Car Yields \$700K in Bergen Co.

Cheema v. New Jersey Transit: A motorist who sustained several bone fractures when she was struck by a transit bus had a \$700,000 settlement approved by the state on March 18.

In May 2013, Baljinder Cheema, then 59, was headed northbound on Summit Avenue in Hackensack. While travelling through the intersection with Passaic Street, a New Jersey Transit bus driven by Desire Boga and heading east on Passaic failed to stop at a flashing red signal and struck the driver's side of Cheema's vehicle, according to her lawyer, Adam Epstein of Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman in Roseland.

Cheema sustained fractures to cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and fractures to her eighth and ninth ribs, and wore a brace for an extended period and underwent physical therapy, Epstein said.

He said the case settled during



PHOTO BY CARMEN NATALE

ADAM EPSTEIN

mediation with retired Middlesex County Superior Judge **Mark Epstein** of Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas on Oct. 13, 2015, and the settlement was approved by the state last month.

New Jersey Transit was represented by Deputy Attorney General **Stephen McEvily**.

Office spokesman Lee Moore did not provide a comment.

— *By David Gialanella*