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## ***\$770,000 for Traffic Injury***

*Zagler v. Grungo*: A woman hit by a truck mirror while standing in the street was awarded \$770,000 by a Burlington County jury on Aug. 18.

On Dec. 3, 2007, Lisa Zagler, then 44, was putting out bulk trash in front of her home on Tuckerton Road in Medford when the mirror hit her and flung her onto the trash, says her lawyer, **Louis Podel** of Medford.

She suffered a herniated back disc at L5-S1, shoulder impingement syndrome, head trauma, a strained neck, and exacerbation of prior elbow and knee problems, Podel says, adding that she had injections for pain but still has shooting pain in her lower back, making standing and sitting difficult.

The truck driver, Frank Grungo of Marlton, contended Zagler was negligent for standing too close to traffic and that she failed to meet the verbal threshold because she did not show permanent harm and that the disc injury was degenerative. He offered \$17,000 to settle.

At trial before Superior Court Judge **John Harrington**, the jury awarded Zagler \$750,000 plus \$20,000 on her husband Wilhelm's per quod claim.

Defense counsel **John Mastronardi**, of **Styliades, Jackson & Burghart** in Marlton, declines comment.

— *By Mary Pat Gallagher*