



Spinal Injuries in Bank Parking Lot Fall Lead to \$7 Million Settlement in Middlesex

A plaintiff will receive \$7 million in his Middlesex County suit, *Plaintiff v. Bank of America*, as compensation for injuries he sustained when he slipped and fell in an icy parking lot.

The plaintiff, now 53, of Plainsboro, agreed to the settlement with the defendants on June 29 after a series of conferences before Middlesex County Superior Court Judge **Jamie Happas**, said The plaintiff's attorney, **Nicholas Leonardis**.

The plaintiff was injured on Feb. 9, 2015, in the parking lot of a Bank of America branch on Route 518 in Rocky Hill, said Leonardis, of **Stathis & Leonardis** in Edison.

The parking lot was covered with ice and had not been salted, Leonardis said. He slipped and fell as he attempted to step onto a sidewalk while going to the bank's ATM.



NICHOLAS LEONARDIS

COURTESY OF NICHOLAS LEONARDIS

The plaintiff struck his head and body on the parking lot, rendering him a quadriplegic and causing partial vocal chord paralysis, Leonardis said.

The plaintiff, after surgery and physical therapy, has regained the power to walk and drive a car, but has not been able to return to work, Leonardis said.

The plaintiff sued Bank of America; CBRE, the building owner; a subcontractor, Brickman Group; and the company it hired to maintain the sidewalk, Best Landscaping.

ACE American Insurance Co. represented Best, and contributed \$1 million toward to the settlement, Leonardis said, while American General Insurance and Liability and Zurich American Insurance Co. will pay the remainder as umbrella carriers, Leonardis said.

Jared Duvoisin, of Newark's **Tompkins, McGuire, Wachenfeld & Barry**, represented Bank of America, CBRE and Brickman. **Lane Ferdinand**, who runs a firm in Springfield, represented Best.

Both confirmed the amount of the settlement.

— **Michael Booth**