

STATHIS & LEONARDIS

MORRIS COUNTY TENANT'S STAIRWAY FALL CASE SETTLES FOR \$2 MILLION

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LEAD ATTORNEY: NICHOLAS J. LEONARDIS



PLAINTIFF V. GB2L PROPERTIES - \$2 MILLION

Case Summary

A Morris County personal injury case by a tenant, who fell on decrepit steps that the landlord allegedly failed to repair, settled on Aug. 30 for \$2 million.

In Plaintiff v. GB2L Properties, Plaintiff sustained a serious spinal injury after falling on the steps at his Netcong multi-family dwelling owned by defendant according to his lawyer, **Nicholas J. Leonardis, of Stathis & Leonardis in Edison.**

In 2018, Plaintiff, was a tenant at the Netcong home. **Leonardis** said Plaintiff had previously complained to Defendant that there were safety issues with the front steps, which were falling apart and in need of repair. Defendant failed to repair the steps.

As Plaintiff was exiting the front door and descending the steps, the step he was on suddenly cracked and crumbled beneath him, causing him to fall down the stairs to the landing below.

According to **Leonardis**, defendant was insured by State Farm with a \$2 million policy. The case settled on Aug. 30, prior to trial.

Injuries/Damages

Plaintiff suffered extensive injuries from the fall, including disc herniations at L3-4 and L5-S1, which required a multi-level lumbar fusion on May 1, 2020.

Plaintiff, now 45, is still recovering from the lumbar fusion surgery from earlier this year.

“It’s not likely he will go back in the manual construction field,” **Leonardis** said in a phone interview. “Maybe he’ll be put into a supervisory role instructing others to do the work,” if he goes back, added Leonardis.

“I think the settlement is fair given what he’s gone through,” Leonardis said. “The entire limits were \$2 million. The client is extremely happy with the award.”

Leonardis, who litigates many spinal injury cases, added: “The multi-level fusion was successful, but he has a long recovery ahead of him still. [The surgery] helped make him more functional, but moving into the future the condition may worsen as he gets older.

“When you fuse multi levels of the spine, the levels above the fusion site have a likelihood of breaking down since they will take on an increased burden,” which “may require more medical procedures in the future,” added **Leonardis**.



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