



Jeffrey Scott and Frank Allen Secure Jury Verdict on Behalf of State Agency

Press Releases

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An Atlantic County, N.J., jury has exonerated the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) and three of its snow plow operators in connection with a motor vehicle accident that occurred inside the Atlantic City-Brigantine Connector Tunnel on March 3, 2009. The trial began on March 11 with jury selection. The panel deliberated approximately two hours before rendering its verdict on March 27.

The plaintiffs in *Mendez and Curran v. South Jersey Transportation Authority, et al.*, were the driver and passenger in a vehicle that collided into the rear of an SJTA snow plow. Plaintiffs, who sustained serious injuries, sought damages in excess of \$6 million, court documents indicate.

The accident occurred while an SJTA snow plow team was clearing roadways following a storm that dropped nearly a foot of snow in the area. At the time of the incident, the snow plow team had momentarily stopped on the 15-foot wide maintenance/shoulder lane to confer on the progress of the snow removal. The Plaintiffs alleged that the snow plow operators violated state law by stopping in the maintenance/shoulder lane inside the Connector Tunnel. Without any warning, Plaintiff Mendez, driving in the southbound lanes of the Connector Tunnel, lost control of his vehicle and struck the rear of a snow plow. Trial testimony revealed the actions of the snow plow team did not cause Mendez to lose control of his vehicle. The jury, by finding no negligence on the part of the SJTA or its employees, determined that the SJTA and the three members of the snow plow team acted reasonably and in compliance with state law and SJTA regulations.

The SJTA and the three truck drivers were represented at trial by **Jeffrey M. Scott** and **Frank D. Allen** of Archer P.C.

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