# [***Ana Budimlic v. National Retail Transportation, et al; 2007 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 1771***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4NTH-H4K0-0223-Y03Y-00000-00&context=)

04-00884

May 7, 2007

**Headline:** New Jersey Federal Jury Awards Woman Hurt In Auto ***Accident*** $1,038.30

**Result:** $1,038.30 plaintiff verdict ($1,000 for plaintiff, $38.30 in prejudgment interest)

**Injury:** Internal damage to the knee, which required arthroscopic surgery; disc herniation, cuts and bruises

**Court:** D. N.J.

**Judge:** Susan D. Wigenton

**Plaintiff Profile**

Ana Budimlic

**Defendant Profile**

National Retail Transportation, Ramon Aleman

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Corinne Pascariu, Bauman, Kunkis & Ocasio-Douglas, New York

**Defendant Counsel**

Leonard C. Leicht, Morgan Melhuish Abrutyn, Livingston, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto negligence

**Background:** On Sept. 13, 2002, Ana Budimlic was driving her ***car*** in Secaucus, N.J., at the intersection of Paterson Plank Road and the New Jersey Turnpike's Interchange 16E exit. When Budimlic was stopped at a red light at the intersection, she was struck by a Mack truck owned by National Retail Transportation and driven by Ramon Aleman, which was attempting to make a left turn after exiting the turnpike.As a result of the ***accident***, sources told Mealey Publications, Budimlic suffered internal damage to her knee, which required arthroscopic surgery, along with disc herniation, cuts and bruises.Budimlic sued National Retail and Aleman on March 13, 2003, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. The case was removed to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey on Feb. 25, 2004.

**Other:** The jury initially awarded Budimlic $2,000 but found her to be 50 percent negligent for causing the ***accident***, so the award was reduced to $1,000.Sources said the trial lasted two days, and the jury deliberated two hours.A nonbinding arbitration award of $75,000 was rejected by National Retail and Aleman, sources said. National Retail and Aleman offered $10,000 before the trial, but the offer was pulled once the trial began, sources said.

**Defense:** Allegations denied; comparative negligence.

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Jadan H. Abassi, M.D., Clifton, N.J., pain management specialist, testified about the injuries Dov Berkovitz, M.D., New York, orthopedist, also testified on the injuries

**Defendant Expert(s)**

Steven J. Heller, M.D., West Orange, N.J., orthopedist, testified on injuries

**Key Related Documents**

Judgment available.Document #99-070521-220R.

Jury verdict form available.Document #99-070521-221V.

Jury notes available.Document #99-070521-222X.

National Retail's request for trial de novo available.Document #99-070521-223M.

Final pretrial order available.Document #99-070521-224R.

Complaint available.Document #99-070521-225C.

Copyright 2007 LexisNexis, Division of Reed Elsevier Inc.

LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlements Report

**End of Document**