# [***Imad Balbaki v. Sean Burke; 2007 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 70***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4N1S-T7B0-0223-Y309-00000-00&context=)

BER-L-1048-05

Feb. 2, 2007

**Headline:** New Jersey State Jury Awards $120,000 To Man Injured In Auto ***Accident***

**Result:** $120,000 verdict

**Injury:** Cervical herniation, lumbar bulge

**Court:** N.J. Super., Bergen Co.

**Judge:** Marc Ressello

**Plaintiff Profile**

Imad Balbaki

**Defendant Profile**

Sean Burke

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Evan D. Baker, Law Offices of Rosemarie Arnold, Fort Lee, N.J

**Defendant Counsel**

Peter L. Aragona, Law Offices of Doreen Ryan, Paramus, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto negligence

**Background:** Sources told Mealey Publications that on June 21, 2004, Imad Balbaki was making a left turn at a green light at the intersection of exit ramp from Interstate 80 and Pollifly Road in Hackensack, N.J., when he was struck on the right side of his ***car*** by a vehicle driven by Sean Burke. Burke claimed that the traffic light in his direction was out, sources said.Balbaki suffered a cervical herniation and lumbar bulge and saw a chiropractor for three months, sources said.Imad Balbaki sued Sean Burke on Feb. 10, 2005, in the Bergen County Superior Court.

**Other:** Sources said the jury found Burke 70 percent negligent and Balbaki 30 percent negligent, so the jury's award of $120,000 was reduced to $84,000.Burke's insurance carrier was Allstate Insurance Co., sources said.During the trial, sources said, the plaintiff made an offer of judgment for $50,000, which was rejected by the defense.The trial lasted five days and the jury deliberated eight hours, sources said.

**Defense:** Allegations denied; questioned the permanence of the injuries.

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Michael Amoroso, M.D., radiologist, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Victor Verlezza, M.D., East Orange, N.J

**Defendant Expert(s)**

Robert Goldstone, M.D., orthopedist, Glen Rock, N.J

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LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlement Report

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