# [***Jeffrey Howard Sr., Jeffrey Howard Jr. v. Michael A. Falzone, Lorraine Gerlesky, John Gerlesky; 2006 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 1598***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4MM8-8670-0223-Y28K-00000-00&context=)

MID-L-734-04

Sept. 15, 2006

**Headline:** New Jersey Auto ***Accident*** Victims Awarded $100,000 After Chain-Reaction Crash

**Result:** $100,000 plaintiff verdict (Jeffrey Howard Sr., $40,000 in damages; Jeffrey Howard Jr., $60,000 in damages)

**Injury:** Howard Sr. - bulging disc at C5-C6, focal disc herniation with adjacent spondylitic change at C6-C7, bilateral carpel tunnel syndrome with bilateral C6-C7 radiculopathy. Howard Jr. - bulging disc at C4-C5 and straightening of the normal cervical curve consistent with muscular spasm, bulging of the posterior annular fibers at the L5-S1 level of the lumbar spine

**Court:** N.J. Super., Middlesex Co.

**Judge:** Rosemarie Ruggerio Williams

**Plaintiff Profile**

Jeffrey Howard Sr., Jeffrey Howard Jr

**Defendant Profile**

Michael A. Falzone, Lorraine Gerlesky, John Gerlesky

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Patricia M. Love, Hendricks & Hendricks, New Brunswick, N.J

**Defendant Counsel**

Kevin M. Shanahan, Law Offices of Kevin M. Shanahan, Pennington, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto negligence

**Background:** Sources told Mealey Publications that on Feb. 8, 2002, Jeffrey Howard Sr. and his son Jeffrey Howard Jr. were driving on Washington Road in Sayreville, N.J., when they were involved in a chain-reaction auto ***accident***.The Howards were struck in the rear by a ***car*** driven by Michael A. Falzone, who had just been rear-ended by a ***car*** driven by Lorraine Gerlesky and owned by John Gerlesky, sources said.Sources said both of the Howards sustained serious injuries. Howard Sr. suffered a bulging disc at C5-C6, focal disc herniation with adjacent spondylitic change at C6-C7 and bilateral carpel tunnel syndrome with bilateral C6-C7 radiculopathy, sources said. Meanwhile, sources said Howard Jr. suffered a bulging disc at C4-C5 and straightening of the normal cervical curve consistent with muscular spasm and bulging of the posterior annular fibers at the L5-S1 level of the lumbar spine. At the time of the ***accident***, Howard Jr. was 15 years old and very active in athletics, sources said, but as a result of the injuries from the ***accident***, could no longer participate in any of them. He continues to have pain in his lower back, sources said.The Howards sued Falzone and the Gerleskys on Jan. 30, 2004, in the Middlesex County Superior Court.

**Other:** The trial lasted two days, and the jury deliberated 2-1/2 hours, sources said, and found that both plaintiffs suffered permanent injuries because of the ***accident***. Sources said Falzone was released from the case because he did not cause the ***accident*** because his ***car*** was pushed into the Howard's vehicle by Lorraine Gerlesky striking his ***car***.Gerlesky's insurance carrier was New Jersey Manufacturer's Insurance Co., sources said.

**Defense:** Liability admitted

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Konstantine Fotiou, M.D., chiropractor, Perth Amboy, N.J

**Defendant Expert(s)**

Kevin J. Egan, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, West Orange, N.J

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LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlement Report

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