# [***Michele T. Cooney v. Frank J. Gramaglia; 2007 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 2337***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4P3K-J120-0223-Y10S-00000-00&context=)

CAM-L-7938-05

June 14, 2007

**Headline:** New Jersey Woman Injured In ***Car*** Crash Awarded $7.6 Million By State Court Jury

**Result:** $7.6 million plaintiff verdict

**Injury:** Ruptured spleen, acetabular and pubic ramus fractures, tibial plateau fractures, renal artery injury, pulmonary contusions, multiple rib fractures, abdominal compartment syndrome

**Court:** N.J. Super., Camden Co.

**Judge:** Robert G. Millenky

**Plaintiff Profile**

Michele T. Cooney

**Defendant Profile**

Frank J. Gramaglia

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Mati Jarve, Jarve Kaplan Granato, Marlton, N.J

**Defendant Counsel**

Robert M. Kaplan, Margolis Edelstein, Westmont, N.J.; Eric A. Browndorf, Cooper Levenson, Atlantic City, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto negligence

**Background:** Sources told Mealey Publications that on May 3, 2005, Michele T. Cooney was driving home from work on South Egg Harbor Road in Winslow Township, N.J., when a ***car*** driven by Frank J. Gramaglia failed to yield at a stop sign on Fleming Pike. The impact of the crash caused Cooney's ***car*** to be t-boned on the driver's side, and it caused Cooney's ***car*** to slide into a utility pole, crushing the passenger side of her ***car***, sources said.Sources said Cooney suffered a ruptured spleen, acetabular and pubic ramus fractures, tibial plateau fractures, renal artery injury, pulmonary contusions, multiple rib fractures and abdominal compartment syndrome. Cooney spent the first three months after the ***accident*** in a drug-induced coma while her injuries healed, sources said. Upon discharge from the hospital, sources said Cooney spent the next two months at a rehabilitation hospital and then another four months at a convalescent and nursing center. Eventually, sources said, Cooney had to sell her two-story townhouse because it was not handicapped accessible, and she moved in with her mother, who made her home handicapped accessible. Cooney was rendered totally and permanently disabled and did not return to her job as an X-ray technician at Kessler Hospital, sources said.Cooney sued Gramaglia on Sept. 9, 2005, in the Camden County, N.J., Superior Court.

**Other:** The trial lasted four days, and the jury deliberated for about three hours, sources said.Sources said Gramaglia hired personal counsel Eric A. Browndorf because his auto liability carrier, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance, had tendered its $100,000 policy even before the suit was filed. Cooney also learned before filing suit that Gramaglia was attempting to hide his assets by transferring ownership of his vacation home to his wife and that he owned multiple properties and business interests, sources said.

**Defense:** Allegations denied.

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Robert Wolf, Ph.D., vocational rehabilitation expert and economist, Cherry Hill, N.J., testified on the impact Cooney's injuries would have on her past and future wages

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LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlements Report

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