# [***Robert Schafer Jr. v. David Harbison; 2007 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 2369***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4P3M-DHJ0-0223-Y124-00000-00&context=)

BER-L-2275-06

June 6, 2007

**Headline:** New Jersey Man Settles Auto Negligence Suit In State Court For $1 Million

**Result:** $1 million settlement

**Injury:** Collapsed lung, left hip fracture, concussion, fractured ribs, spleen was removed.

**Court:** N.J. Super., Bergen Co.

**Judge:** Anthony Sciuto

**Plaintiff Profile**

Robert Schafer Jr

**Defendant Profile**

David Harbison

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Lisa Firko and Dennis Drasco, Lum, Drasco & Positan, Roseland, N.J

**Defendant Counsel**

David McKenna, Law Office of Joseph Carolan, Parsippany, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto negligence

**Background:** Sources told Mealey Publications that on Aug. 19, 2005, Robert Schafer Jr., now 66, of Cream Ridge, N.J., was driving north on U.S. I-287 in Mahwah, N.J., when a ***car*** driven by David Harbison crossed the grass median and hit the driver's side of Schafer's ***car***. Harbison, who was driving south, claimed that he lost control of his vehicle when he swerved left to avoid a ***car*** stopped in front of him.Sources said Schafer, who was wearing a seat belt, suffered a collapsed lung, left hip fracture, concussion and fractured ribs. Schafer's spleen was removed and an infection that developed into gangrene required removal of 90 percent of his intestines, sources said. Schafer also suffers from incontinence, sources said, walks with a limp, has pins in his hip and suffers from abdominal problems. Schafer remained in the hospital from the time of the ***accident*** until the end of November 2005.As a result of the ***accident***, sources said, Schafer was forced to give up his job as a machine operator at Sambol Construction Co., where he worked for 44 years.There were two dogs in the ***car*** with Schafer, sources said, and one died in the ***accident***.Schafer sued Harbison on March 22, 2006, in the Bergen County, N.J., Superior Court.

**Other:** Sources said Harbison pleaded guilty to careless driving on Nov. 1, 2005, and was fined.

**Defense:** Allegations denied.

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Frank D. Tinari, Ph.D., Livingston, N.J., economist (expected to testify if case went to trial), G. James Morgan Jr., M.D., Chatham, N.J., neuropsychologist (expected to testify if case went to trial) Ronald J. Simon, M.D., New York, trauma specialist (expected to testify if case went to trial) David Beffler, M.D., Newark, N.J., gastrointestinal expert (expected to testify if case went to trial) Joseph DiTrolio M.D., New Brunswick, N.J., urologist (expected to testify if case went to trial)

**Key Related Documents**

Complaint available.Document #99-070618-222C.

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LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlements Report

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