# [***Roger Gray, Gwendolyn Gray v. Sydney Baker; 2006 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 3071***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4NT9-HT10-0223-Y02W-00000-00&context=)

BER-L-013245

Oct. 31, 2006

**Headline:** New Jersey Jury Awards Man Rear-Ended In Auto ***Accident*** $10,000

**Result:** $10,000 plaintiff's verdict

**Injury:** Posterior annular tear at L5-S1, a herniated disc at L5-S1, bulging discs at C6-7, C7-T1, L3-4, L5-S1 and C6-7 radiculopathy.

**Court:** N.J. Super., Bergen Co.

**Judge:** Mark M. Russello

**Plaintiff Profile**

Roger Gray, Gwendolyn Gray

**Defendant Profile**

Sydney Baker

**Plaintiff Counsel**

William Pollack, Pollack & Pollack, Clifton, N.J

**Defendant Counsel**

Randy S. Faust, Faust, Goetz, Schenker & Blee, Livingston, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto negligence

**Background:** Sources told Mealey Publications that on Dec. 11, 2003, Roger Gray was driving his ***car*** on Route 17 South in Ridgewood, N.J. At the same time, Sydney Baker was driving behind Gray, sources said. As Gray came to the top of a hill, sources said, he came upon stopped traffic and quickly hit his brakes. Sources said Baker tried to stop but rear-ended Gray's ***car***.Sources said Gray claimed that he sustained a posterior annular tear at L5-S1, a herniated disc at L5-S1, bulging discs at C6-7, C7-T1, L3-4, L5-S1 and C6-7 radiculopathy.Roger Gray, along with his wife, Gwendolyn Gray, who filed a per quod claim, sued Baker in 2004 in the Bergen County, N.J. Superior Court.

**Other:** The trial lasted three days, and the jury deliberated 45 minutes, sources said.Sources said that the arbitration award was $50,000, which was rejected by the Grays, and that Baker was offering $9,500.Since Baker's insurance carrier, N.Y. Central Mutual, was an out-of-state carrier and not licensed to do business in New Jersey, the verbal threshold statute did not apply in this case, sources said.

**Defense:** Allegations denied.

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Orestes Sanchez, M.D., radiologist, Passaic, N.J., testified on the extent of Gray's injuries Todd Copel, M.D., pain management specialist, West Orange, N.J., testified on the extent of Gray's injuries

**Defendant Expert(s)**

Kevin J. Egan, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, West Orange, N.J., testified on the extent of Gray's injuries Stanley Knep, M.D., neurologist, Clifton, N.J., testified on the extent of Gray's injuries and how they affected his day-to-day quality of life

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LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlements Report

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