# [***Sheila Brooks v. James Stoney Jr., et al; 2007 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 711***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4NHM-NTK0-0223-Y3VT-00000-00&context=)

ESX-L-298-03

March 7, 2007

**Headline:** New Jersey State Jury Awards $2 Million To Passenger Injured In Hit-And-Run ***Accident***

**Result:** $2 million plaintiff verdict

**Injury:** Fractured upper right arm and fractured right thigh

**Court:** N.J. Super., Essex Co.

**Judge:** Hector DeSoto

**Plaintiff Profile**

Sheila Brooks

**Defendant Profile**

James Stoney Jr., New Jersey Manufacturers

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Gregg Stone, Kirsch, Gelband & Stone, Newark, N.J

**Defendant Counsel**

For Stoney - Raymond Connell, Dwyer, Connell & Lisbona, Fairfield, N.J. For NJM - Brian Steller, Connell Foley, Roseland, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto negligence.

**Background:** Sources told Mealey Publications that on Aug. 11, 2002, Sheila Brooks was a front-seat passenger in a ***car*** driven by James Stoney Jr., who made a left turn along a four-lane road in East Orange, N.J., and was broadsided by a reportedly stolen ***car***, which then fled the scene.Brooks fractured her upper right arm and right thigh, both of which required surgery and bone grafts, sources said. She now walks with a limp and tires easily, sources said.Brooks sued Stoney and his insurance carrier, New Jersey Manufacturers (NJM), on an uninsured motorist claim on Jan. 9, 2003, in the Essex County, N.J., Superior Court.

**Other:** At first trial in May 2005, Stoney was found to be 55 percent negligent and the unknown hit-and-run driver was found to be 45 percent negligent, sources said. A trial on damages was delayed by an appeal, sources said, which ended with affirmance of the verdict.Sources said Brooks settled with Stoney for $500,000 on Feb. 21, 2007.The second trial lasted two days, and the jury deliberated for an hour and 10 minutes, sources said.Sources said the plaintiff's counsel will file an order asking Judge DeSoto to mold the $2 million jury verdict to $900,000 based on the 45 percent liability found against the hit-and-run driver in the May 2005 trial. NJM's counsel will file an order to Judge DeSoto to mold the jury verdict to $500,000, which is the insurance policy limit, sources said.

**Defense:** Allegations denied.

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Fred F. Behrens, orthopedic surgeon, Newark, N.J., testified on Brooks' injuries from the ***accident***

**Defendant Expert(s)**

None called

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