# [***Veronica Zapata v. Laura Roberts; 2006 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 1600***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4MM8-8680-0223-Y28N-00000-00&context=)

WAR-L-602-02

Sept. 16, 2006

**Headline:** Defense Verdict Rendered In New Jersey Auto ***Accident*** Suit

**Result:** Defense verdict

**Injury:** Herniated discs at C4-5, C5-6 and C6-7, radiculopathy, bilateral carpel tunnel syndrome

**Court:** N.J. Super., Warren Co.

**Judge:** John Coyle

**Plaintiff Profile**

Veronica Zapata

**Defendant Profile**

Laura Roberts

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Jeffrey E. Grabelle, Starr, Gern, Davison & Rubin, Roseland, N.J

**Defendant Counsel**

John P. Gilfillan, Carroll, McNulty & Kull, Basking Ridge, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto negligence

**Background:** Sources told Mealey Publications that on Feb. 27, 2001, Veronica Zapata s was driving east on Route 80 in Denville, N.J., when she was rear-ended by a ***car*** driven by Laura Roberts.Zapata said she was injured in the ***accident*** and suffered herniated discs at C4-5, C5-6 and C6-7, radiculopathy and bilateral carpel tunnel syndrome, sources said. From April to December 2001, Zapata underwent 45 physical therapy sessions, sources said.Zapata sued Roberts on Nov. 21, 2002, in the Warren County, N.J., Superior Court.

**Other:** The trial lasted three days, and the jury deliberated two hours, sources said. The jury found that the plaintiff did not show that the ***accident*** caused permanent injuries, sources said.Sources said Zapata sought $15,000 for past and future pain and suffering.

**Defense:** Liability conceded; permanence of the injuries contested

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Bryan J. Massoud, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, Fair Lawn, N.J., testified that Zapata sustained a herniated disc in the ***accident*** and she would require surgery for bilateral carpel tunnel syndrome in both of her wrists

**Defendant Expert(s)**

Barry S. Levine, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, Morristown, N.J., testified that the herniated discs were not caused by the ***accident*** but were degenerative and that the carpel tunnel syndrome was not caused by the ***accident***

Copyright LexisNexis, Division of Reed Elsevier Inc.

LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlement Report

**End of Document**