

# Rear-End Crash Causing Back Injuries Yields \$950K Settlement in Monmouth

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A N.J., man who suffered lower back injuries in a rear-end accident agreed to a \$950,000 settlement of his suit in Monmouth County, N.J., Superior Court, v. Sentry Insurance.

was stopped in traffic while driving south on the Garden State Parkway in Sayreville, N.J., on Jan. 8, 2010, when his car was hit from behind by one driven by Addison Pons. car was, in turn, pushed into the rear of the car in front of his. Pons told police that traffic stopped abruptly and he had no time to stop, according to lawyer, **Craig Laughlin** of **Gale & Laughlin** in Hazlet, N.J.

now 53, sustained a severe lumbar spine injury, including displacement at L5-S1 and radiculopathy. He underwent a decompressive laminectomy, and when that failed he underwent lumbar fusion with internal fixation. His treatment also included 40 physical therapy visits and two sets of lumbar steroid injections, Laughlin said.

initial suit against Pons settled in January 2014 for \$260,000. He then brought an underinsured motorist suit against his insurance company, Sentry, which had a \$1 million policy limit. It agreed to pay \$950,000, less the \$260,000 received from Pons, Laughlins said.

The lawyer for Sentry, **Virginia Barrett** of **Barrett & Lazar** in Maywood, N.J., did not return a call