



\$300,000 for Automobile Injury

Rackett v. Watson: A pedestrian who suffered a head injury in a hit-and-run accident accepted a \$300,000 settlement of his Monmouth County Suit on Dec. 16, 2013.

Craig Laughlin *On Jan. 29, 2011, Matthew Rackett, then 15, of Aberdeen was walking along the shoulder of Route 34 in Matawan when he was struck by a car. He was diagnosed with scalp swelling and abrasions, nasal abrasions, kidney contusions, fractured vertebrae and neurological deficits.*

The driver, Thomas Watson, also of Aberdeen, left the accident scene without stopping. He later pleaded guilty to careless driving and leaving the scene of an accident resulting in serious bodily injury, says Rackett's lawyer, Craig Laughlin of Gale & Laughlin in Hazlet.

Watson did not dispute liability in the case, and the suit was settled at his full policy limit of \$300,000.

Watson's lawyer, Michael Lynch, of the Manasquan firm of James Carton IV, did not return a call about the case.

-By Charles Toutant