

Levinson Axelrod^{P.A.}

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER



LYDIA AMPUTEES FOUNDATION 5K 2022

Levinson Axelrod continued its ongoing support of Lydia's Amputees Foundation by being one of the sponsors of the 5k walk which took place on October 8, 2022 at Alvin P Williams Park in Sewaren, New Jersey. Despite the horrible weather the past few days, participants were treated to a beautiful, sunny, fall morning and a great time was had by all, helping to support an organization that is doing incredible work. This annual event helps bring awareness to a very special charity which brings support and hope to those who have suffered the loss of a limb.

Founded by Lydia Grey, who suffered a severe injury to her hand, the organization hopes to become a significant resource regarding information about prosthetics. Levinson Axelrod attorneys, Kim Gozsa, Jessica Bland and Todd Wachtel attended the event and assisted in the running of same. Levinson Axelrod's Mark Kuminski sits on the Board of the Lydia Amputees Foundation and donated wonderful gift baskets which were raffled off for the charity.



Above: Kimberly Gozsa, Esq., Jessica Bland, Esq., and Todd Wachtel, Esq.

In Memoriam

Jacob Levinson (1934-1988)

Robert J. Axelrod (1961-2000)

Alfred A. Levinson (1948-2006)

Partners

Richard J. Levinson

Richard J. Marcolus **

Mark V. Kuminski *

Adam L. Rothenberg *

Brett R. Greiner *

Kimberly L. Gozsa *

Michael B. Fusco

Todd D. Wachtel **

Robert Y. Cook *

Matthew P. Pietrowski

Patrick J. Flinn *

Kathleen M. DiGiovanni *

Christopher A. DeAngelo

Associates

Rosemary E. McGeady, M.D.

Kendall W. Medway

Celine M. Vitale

Kelley W. Lavery *

Jessica R. Bland

David T. Ferrara

Ronald S. Yuro *

Of Counsel

Ronald B. Grayzel *

James J. Dunn *

* Certified Civil Trial Attorney

** Certified Workers' Comp. Attorney



RESULT: ROBERT COOK RECOVERS \$2.5 MILLION IN TWO AUTO ACCIDENT CASES

JUNE 16 2022

Levinson Axelrod, P.A. Partner Robert Cook recently secured a pair of auto accident settlements in two separate cases for a combined \$2.5 million in compensation.

Here are some additional details about the cases.

\$2 Million Settlement for Victim Rear-Ended by Dump Truck

Rob recovered \$2 million by way of settlement for a client whose vehicle was struck from behind by a dump truck on Route 206 in Springfield Township, NJ.



Robert Y. Cook is a Partner at Levinson Axelrod, P.A.'s Forked River office. A U.S. Army Veteran who served as a field artillery officer, Robert leverages his sharpened discipline and attention to detail to help clients build the strongest possible cases. His areas of practice include premises liability, motor vehicle accidents, defective products, and other complex injury claims.

Rob's client suffered multiple injuries in the collision, and required surgeries to her neck, back, and hip.

The Defendants raised several challenges when litigating this case. This included claims that our client suddenly changed lanes into the truck's lane of travel just prior to the collision, and that her injuries were a progression of longstanding neck and back conditions for which she had received extensive treatment before the crash. The Defendants further alleged that our client's hip surgery, which followed a fall-related injury she suffered two years after the collision, was unrelated to the crash at issue.

Fortunately, Rob was able to successfully argue that our client's subsequent fall was the result of gait and balance problems she developed due to spine injuries she suffered in the crash. Thanks to his ability to challenge the Defendants' claims, Rob was able to ultimately negotiate a **\$2 million settlement** for his client.

\$500,000 Policy Limits Settlement for Victim Struck in Parking Lot

In another case, Rob secured a six-figure settlement for a client struck by a vehicle in a parking lot.

Rob's client had been standing near the rear of her vehicle when the Defendant motorist drove over part of a parking lot island and struck her.

Despite a long history of prior neck and back treatment that included lumbar spinal pain stimulator surgery and ...cont. on next page

TESTIMONIALS

I am extremely grateful for all of their hard work and empathy.

"I used Levinson and Alexrod for the most difficult and stressful situation of my life. Kim Gozsa was my lawyer. But more than that she was my advocator and support throughout the entire process. From the moment we met her confidence in doing what was best for me and my family was very apparent. The emails I sent were always answered within the hour. And the phone calls I made were always met with answers but more important kindness. The office in entirety made the process as smooth and painless as possible and that was very much appreciated considering the pain of the situation was already un-

bearable. I am extremely grateful for all of their hard work and empathy. And because of everything they did for my family, I will be able to rest a little easier knowing I have a cushion to fall back on."

-Anonymous

"What a pleasure to deal with you and your firm all these years. You definitely would make anyone believe in the efficiency of an excellent attorney. I do recommend you, often, and it is interesting to note that your firm also does other legal work. You then are my lawyer for all life's legal vicissitudes. The best to you and yours."

- James D.

RESULT: KELLEY LAVERY RECOVERS \$987K SETTLEMENT FOR VICTIM WHO FELL IN PARKING GARAGE

JULY 14 2022

Levinson Axelrod, P.A. Attorney Kelley Lavery recently recovered a nearly \$1 million settlement for a client who suffered multiple injuries after falling into a hole in a parking garage.

The defendants failed to make a fair offer pre-trial and Kelley took the case to trial. After Kelley had picked a jury and presented his case through the testimony of a medical expert, liability expert, and the Plaintiff, the defense attorneys chose to settle the claim rather than proceeding.

As detailed in court documents, Kelley's client had parked their vehicle in a parking garage located at the PATH Journal Square Transportation Center in Jersey City, New Jersey. This was the first time the Plaintiff, who intended to travel via the PATH train to New York City, had used the facility.

While walking to find the parking garage's exit to the train, the Plaintiff fell in a hole on the concrete surface of the parking garage and suffered fractures of both ankles. Defendants argued that the location of her fall was closed to the public and that the plaintiff should not have been there. The Plaintiff underwent two surgical repairs for each ankle and experienced subsequent knee issues that necessitated additional surgeries.

In a premises liability lawsuit filed on behalf

of his client, Kelley raised allegations that the Defendants which owned/operated/managed the parking garage negligently failed to address the dangerous condition which caused his client's injuries.

Following multiple days of trial, Kelley was able to successfully tender a \$987,500 settlement from the Port Authority of New York / New Jersey and the company responsible for maintaining the garage.



Kelley Lavery is a Levinson Axelrod, P.A. Associate who represents victims in a range of claims involving motor vehicle accidents, municipal liability, serious injury, and wrongful death. A former Criminal Prosecutor and Civil Defense Attorney, Kelley has leveraged his extensive insight to help victims of negligence recover millions of dollars in compensation.

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a recommendation for cervical fusion surgery, Rob successfully argued that the incident aggravated our client's prior neck and back conditions and worsened them to the point that

she had no alternative but to undergo neck and back surgery. He was able to obtain a settlement **totaling \$500,000** – the limits of the Defendant's auto insurance policy.

I will go out of my way to recommend him to my clients.

"I referred 2 cases to Richard Marcolus, Esq., and my clients are impressed by his work and attitude. As a 76 year old attorney, I will go out of my way to recommend him to my clients."

-Alfred J. Petit-Clair, Jr., Esq.

After working with you over the past two years...you lived up to my trust in you.

"Thank you... Levinson Axelrod for winning 100% of my lawsuit! I chose your law firm because I believed in your integrity. After working with you over the past two years...you lived up to my trust in you. And then when an Insurance Provider mistak-

enly attached a lien onto a portion of my settlement... you dug in and fought even harder on my behalf and received a "Favorable" ruling getting that sum returned to me. Levinson Axelrod... They "Fight" for You They "Fight" Honestly They "Fight" to the Finish. Signed: A most satisfied client!"

-G.A.

Could not have chosen a better group to be on my side.

"Bret, Robert, Ella, Carolyn, Fran - All fantastic, cared about my case all the way start to finish. Could not have chosen a better group to be on my side."

-D.O.

Our Locations

Edison
2 Lincoln Highway
Edison, NJ 08820
(732) 440-3089

Belford
274 Church Street
Belford, NJ 07718
(732) 655-8131

Brick
44 Princeton Avenue
Brick, NJ 08724
(848) 222-8053

Flemington
124 Route 31
Flemington, NJ 08822
(908) 386-4678

Forked River
654 Lacey Road
Forked River, NJ 08731
(609) 614-3375

Howell
3641 US Hwy Route 9N
Howell, NJ 07731
(732) 730-7043

Jamesburg
220 Forsgate Drive
Jamesburg, NJ 08831
(732) 655-8310

Raritan
90 East Somerset Street
Raritan, NJ 08869
(908) 386-4737

Rockaway
25 1/2 Wall Street
Rockaway, NJ 07866
(862) 288-8382

Mt. Laurel
309 Fellowship Road
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
(856) 263-4800

RESULT: CELINE VITALE SECURES TWO WORKERS' COMPENSATION AWARDS

OCTOBER 12 2022

Levinson Axelrod, P.A. Associate Celine Vitale recently resolved two workers' compensation cases for clients who suffered work-related injuries. The results are as follows:

1. Total Disability Award for Fuel Delivery Worker

Celine secured a settlement for Total Disability benefits for a worker who suffered rib fractures and shoulder and back injuries while delivering fuel. The injuries results in the client undergoing a right shoulder arthroscopy, L5-S1 fusion, lumbar decompression, and fusion L5-S1.

Thanks to Celine's efforts, her client is entitled to receive weekly benefits for the rest of his life, as well as an initial

payment of **\$289,980**.

2. Full-Time Rate Reconstruction for Food Service Worker

Celine represented a food service worker who was injured while providing food samples to store patrons. Her client suffered multiple traumatic injuries resulting in bilateral shoulder surgeries, SI joint fusions, cervical fusion at C3-4, lumbar decompression, and fusion at L5-S1.

Celine's client received a 65% PPT award but was subject to a capped rate. However, Celine was able to successfully negotiate a rate reconstruction to a full-time work week. The award entitled her client to **\$125,580**.



Celine M. Vitale is an Associate at Levinson Axelrod, P.A. with nearly 20 years of experience representing plaintiffs and claimants in a range of personal injury, workers' compensation, and Social Security disability claims. With her personalized approach and trial skills, she's helped clients across New Jersey recover millions in compensation.

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<https://www.njlawyers.com/>

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Were you exposed to toxic
water at Camp Lejune?

We can help.