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Arbitrator Awards \$1.4 Million in Ocean County Accident Suit

M*ust v. Sierotowicz*: An arbitrator on April 27 awarded \$1.25 million to a Toms River woman for permanent injuries suffered in a car crash and \$127,500 to her husband for loss of services.

The accident occurred on Dec. 18, 2003, in Dover Township. Fen and Rachel Must were making a left turn from Massachusetts Avenue onto Coxcrow Road when their car was hit by another vehicle. Rachel injured her right hip, requiring insertion of screws and plates and later a hip replacement, and has a permanent limp and scarring, says her lawyer, **Andrew Renda Jr.** of Cedar Grove's **Renda &**

Voynick. Fen, who was driving, was not injured.

The Musts sued the other car's driver, Michael Sierotowicz of Toms River, in Ocean County Superior Court. Both the Musts and Sierotowicz were insured by High Point Property and Casualty Ins. Co.

The arbitrator, retired Appellate Division Judge **John Keefe Sr.**, of Shrewsbury's **Lynch Keefe Bartels**, found Fen 15 percent responsible and reduced his \$150,000 award to \$127,500.

Sierotowicz's attorney, **William Fitzula** of the office of **Robert Auerbach** in Summit, declines to



PERMANENT INJURIES: **Andrew Renda Jr.**'s client injured her hip, requiring insertion of screws and plates and later a replacement.

comment. Fen Must's lawyer, Newark solo **Lourdes Rodriguez**, confirms the award.

— *By Michael Booth*