



## Estate of Limousine Passenger Settles Bergen County Crash Suit for \$2.9M

**T**he estate of a passenger killed in a limousine crash on the New Jersey Turnpike accepted a \$2.9 million settlement on July 17.

Patrick Sweeney, of Pearl River, was en route to Newark Airport on Aug. 15, 2006, when his driver, Jose Lardello, lost control and hit a guardrail, according to the Bergen County suit, *Sweeney v. Lardello*.

The plaintiff's lawyer, **Bruce Nagel** of **Nagel Rice** in Roseland, says the

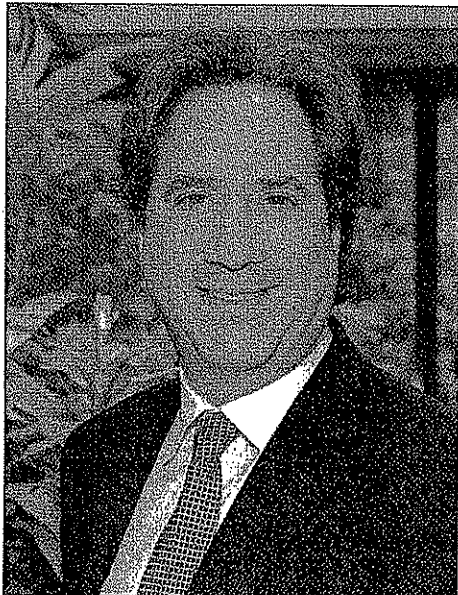


PHOTO BY CARMEN NATALE

**FATAL LIMOUSINE CRASH: Plaintiffs' lawyer Bruce Nagel represented the estate of a passenger killed on the New Jersey Turnpike.**

defense contended the fatal crash was caused by the guardrail's placement too close to the road. Defense lawyer **Richard Connors** of **Tompkins, McGuire, Wachenfeld & Barry** in Newark did not return a reporter's call.

Also at issue was the amount of the economic damages due the heirs of Sweeney, who was 34 and earned \$200,000 a year as a computer salesman.

Nagel says Bergen County Superior Court Judge **Robert Polifroni** has scheduled a Sept. 8 trial against co-defendants allegedly responsible for the guardrail's construction: two engineering companies, a contractor and the N.J. Turnpike.

— *Bv Henry Gottlieb*