

New Jersey Law Journal

STATEWIDE LEGAL AUTHORITY SINCE 1878

VOL. CXC – NO. 10 – INDEX 881

DECEMBER 3, 2007

ALM



\$1.9 Million for Automobile Injuries

Estate of *Sharkey v. Hagan*: An Essex County jury on Nov. 27 awarded \$1.5 million to a woman injured in a car accident and \$400,000 to the estate of her husband, who also was injured but died later of an unrelated cause.

Francis and Patricia Sharkey, of West Orange, were rear-ended on the Garden State Parkway in Irvington on Sept. 1, 2003, as their car moved to the right lane. Their car crossed three lanes, hit the median and was struck by a third vehicle.

Francis, then 77, fractured his right hip but could not undergo surgery because of pre-existing pulmonary fibrosis, and he died from that condition in December 2004, says his estate's attorney, **Timothy Barnes**, of **Porzio, Bromberg & Newman** in Morristown.

Patricia, then 78, fractured an ankle, suffered brain injury and depression and could not return to work, say her lawyers, **Andrew Renda Jr.** and **John Voynick Jr.** of

Renda & Voynick in Cedar Grove.

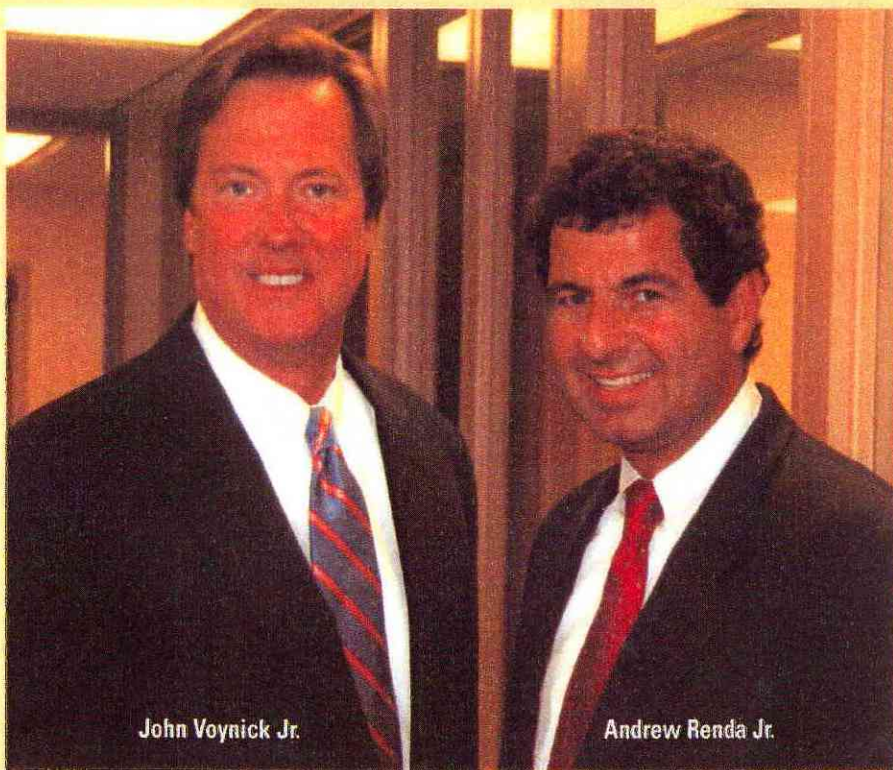
At trial before Superior Court Judge **Donald Goldman**, the jury

found **Shakima Hagan**, the driver of the SUV that first hit the Sharkeys, 80 percent liable. **Francis**, who was driving, was found 20 percent liable, and his \$500,000 award was reduced proportionately.

Hagan's attorney, **Raymond Gurak** of **Mattson, Madden & Leith** in Millburn, did not return calls.

Hagan was insured by New Jersey Manufacturers in Parsippany, Sharkey by Liberty Mutual in Morristown.

— *By Maria Vogel Short*



John Voynick Jr.

Andrew Renda Jr.