

9 **\$7.1M Settlement of Suit Over Fatal Crash on Turnpike** *Schreiner v. Continental Wholesale Florists Inc.*: Suits over a fatal crash on the New Jersey Turnpike settled for a total of \$7.1 million in state and federal courts in Camden County.

Robert Schreiner, a 46-year-old aerospace engineer from Rocky Mount, N.C., was killed on Dec. 31, 1999, near Carneys Point when a 24-foot truck pulled off the shoulder and into the southbound lanes, striking his Nissan minivan in which five family members were passengers. Schreiner was thrown 300 feet from the wreck and died several hours later. His wife, Yvonne, suffered a closed head wound and other injuries. Their four children suffered minor injuries.

Plaintiffs' lawyer **Andrew Rossetti** said that the truck driver, Samuel J. Moore III, of Baltimore, an employee of Continental Wholesale Florists Inc. of San Antonio, had been on duty for 18 hours at the time of the crash according to his log book, which is a violation of federal law.

Rossetti, of Cherry Hill's **Ferrara, Rossetti & DeVoto**, handled the survivors' suit in Superior Court and **Frank Allen**, a partner with **Archer & Greiner** in Haddonfield, handled the wrongful death suit in U.S. District Court in Camden on behalf of Schreiner's estate.

The parties settled the state suit during a 10-hour session with mediator **Philip Gruccio** on Nov. 27, 2001. Schreiner's widow, 45, will receive \$3.5 million. Superior Court Judge **Francis Orlando Jr.** approved a \$1.1-million award to the children, aged 21, 19, 16 and 13, during a friendly hearing on Jan. 4. The same day, the parties settled the wrongful death suit for \$2.5 million before U.S. Magistrate Judge **Joel Rosen**.

Continental's insurance carriers were Old Republic Insurance of Greensburg, Pa., and The Chubb Corp. of Warren.

John Miller, a partner with **Kenney & Kearney** in Cherry Hill, represented Continental and Moore. He confirmed the settlements and said the defendants consider the terms fair.