

## Kingston man gets \$350,000 in settlement from 2001 crash

**KINGSTON** — A Kingston man injured in an automobile accident in 2001 was awarded over \$300,000 this week during a civil suit seeking damages.

An Ulster County jury returned a verdict Wednesday evening awarding \$350,000 to Salvatore DePoala following a civil case presided over by the Honorable Francis Vogt.

Attorney Joseph O'Connor, who represented DePoala, said his client was injured during an accident on March 18, 2001 on the West Side Highway in New York County. He said DePoala was rear-ended by a vehicle being driven by Jeffery Barath of Danbury, Conn. O'Connor said DePoala, 28, suffered injuries that included torn cartilage in his shoulder and sprains to his neck and back. He said DePoala missed three weeks

of work due to his injuries and had to have the torn cartilage surgically repaired.

In a press release O'Connor said Thursday, "The defendant denied responsibility for the injury and also argued in the alternative that the injury was not serious."

James Galvin, who represented Barath, said, "Mr. Barath did not deny, during the trial, responsibility for the accident. That was already decided before the trial."

Galvin said the civil suit was seeking damages, not to determine liability. He added however that he did argue the injury was not serious. Galvin also said the jury awarded the money to DePoala to compensate him for his injury based on his life expectancy of another 47 years. He said the money was to pay DePoala for the rest of his life.