

## Three settle lawsuits for \$1 million or more

**KINGSTON** — Three Ulster County residents have reached million-dollar settlements in personal injury lawsuits this month, according to the law office of Mainetti, Mainetti & O'Connor, who represented the three in separate cases.

The state Supreme Court lawsuits included two workers who fell at job sites and an 88-year-old pedestrian who was struck by a teenage driver.

**ACCORDING** to the law firm:

- George Gallo, 41, of Saugerties, settled his lawsuit for \$1 million on Monday before the state Supreme Court Justice Henry F. Zwack. Gallo was injured falling from a ladder March 17, 2007, while performing work on the Women's Incontinence Center in Kingston as an employee of J&A Roofing. Gallo landed on

his feet and sustained severe injuries to both ankles, requiring extensive surgery, according to lawyer Joseph O'Connor. The damages will be paid by Caroline Mallick-Wood, who owns the Women's Incontinence Center building. O'Connor said that, under state labor law, the building's owner is responsible for safety conditions of any work being performed there. O'Connor said that Gallo suffers from a "permanently bowed leg" that limits his ability to walk.

- Andrew Joslin, 45, of Shandaken, was injured March 13, 2006, falling from defective scaffolding while employed in the construction of Elting Gym at SUNY New Paltz. His case against the state of New York and Losco Group, the general contractor hired to build the gym, was settled Friday for \$1.4 million.

O'Connor said the bulk of the settlement will be paid by Losco group. Joslin sustained serious injuries to his right leg, which prevented him from returning to work as a steelworker, according to attorney Alfred Mainetti.

- Also, on July 14, 88-year-old Mildred Dean settled for \$1.5 million in a lawsuit against the teenage driver

who hit her on Aug. 30, 2007, while she crossed the street in front of George Washington school in Kingston. Mainetti said in a press release that Dean, whom he did not identify by name, spent three months recovering in at Albany Medical Center. Dean sued the 17-year-old driver, Jane Ferraro and her mother, Mary Ferraro.

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