



\$575K for Tenant's Slip on Steps

Carter v. 247-49 Newark Ave. Corp.: An apartment tenant who injured his ankle while climbing the icy front steps to his building was paid a \$575,000 settlement in his Essex County suit on Nov. 27.

On Jan. 24, 2015, Kevin Carter, then 34, was ascending the steps to his apartment, on Newark Avenue in Jersey City, when he lost his balance. He didn't fall, but twisted his left ankle, chipping his ankle bone and developing a talar dome lesion that required arthroscopic surgery and reconstruction of the ligament, said his lawyer, **Richard Reinartz** of the **Reinartz Law Firm** in Hackensack.

Carter also underwent a procedure in which cartilage from his knee was implanted in his ankle, Reinartz said, noting that Carter was able to return to work as a bank compliance officer but

has ongoing pain and walking limitations.

The fall occurred in Hudson County, but the suit was filed in Essex, where Carter had moved at the time it was filed. The action named the property owner, 247-49 Newark Ave. Corp., and the property manager, JC/NB Property Owners, claiming that they failed to clear the front steps after a snowstorm.

The defendants, contesting liability, contended that the snowstorm was still in progress when Carter fell, according to Reinartz.

The defendants, both covered by Philadelphia Indemnity as per an indemnity agreement between the property owner and manager, agreed to the settlement on Nov. 6, during mediation with **Eugene Codey**, a retired Superior Court Judge



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD REINARTZ

RICHARD REINARTZ

with **Connell Foley** in Roseland. The matter was still in discovery, Reinartz said.

Daniel McCarey of Warren, representing the defendants, didn't return a call seeking comment on the case.

— **David Gialanella**