

# New York Law Journal

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A BROOKLYN jury awarded **\$12.6 million** last week to a man who was shot by police 6½ years ago and was rendered paraplegic.

The plaintiff, Manuel Veriguete, claimed that after being mugged in front of his workplace, he displayed an unlicensed handgun to ward off his assailant and sought safety in the building's vestibule. While inside the vestibule and seeking to enter the workplace, police arrived, and one officer, Louis Vannucci, shot him twice.

While police said Mr. Veriguete was pulling out his gun, the plaintiff maintained his gun was still inside his jacket pocket, according to his attorneys, **Jeff S. Korek and Michael A. Fruhling** of Gersowitz, Libo & Korek.

In addition to **\$11.1 million** assessed against the city and the officer, the officer also was held liable for **\$1.5 million** in punitive damages for his reckless conduct. The defendants were represented by Assistant Corporation Counsel Robert Kalish and Charles Graves 2d. Supreme Court Justice Edward M. Rappaport presided over the trial.

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