

\$550,000 for Medical Malpractice

Erdarb v. Fox:

An eye surgeon agreed on Nov. 5 to pay \$550,000 to settle a patient's claim that an operation harmed his vision, the plaintiff's lawyer says.

Jeffrey Erdarb, of Elmwood Park, went to Martin Fox of TLC Laser Center in the same town on Jan. 18, 2001, for vision correction. But his vision became blurry afterward and, now 45, he is legally blind in one eye and will need corneal transplants, according to his suit.

Erdarb's corneas were thin and had steep ridges, which made laser surgery too risky, and Fox shouldn't have performed it, said the Bergen County suit, filed by **Bruce Nagel of Nagel Rice** in Roseland.

Defense lawyer **David Siskind of Schiavetti, Corgan, DiBardis & Nicholson** in New York did not return a call. Nagel says the defense evidence suggested that the corneal pre-operative condition did not preclude an operation under medical standards in effect in 2001 and that the surgery was not responsible for Erdarb's problems.

- By Henry Gottlieb