

**Stephen A. Geffner succeeds in representing the mother of slain Police Probationary Officer Gary Tedesco in her wrongful death action against convicted murderer Thomas Trantino.**

On August 26, 1962, Probationary Police Officer Tedesco, along with Police Officer Peter Voto, was murdered in cold blood by Thomas Trantino, who was later convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to death (The death sentence was never carried out and Trantino was released from prison in 2000 after thirty-eight years in prison.). Assuming Trantino would never have sufficient assets to satisfy any potential judgment, the families of the officers did not commence wrongful death actions against Trantino. Two years later, in 1964, the statute of limitations for a wrong death cause of action expired.

Forty-years later, the New Jersey Legislature amended the wrongful death statute removing the statute of limitations for all actions, both retrospective and prospective. Mr. Geffner and his colleagues at Gallo Geffner Fenster thereafter filed a wrongful death action on behalf of Officer Tedesco's elderly mother. The result was a consent judgment in the amount of \$250,000 against Trantino, who reserved his right to appeal the state legislature's retroactive application of the amended wrongful death statute.

An appeal was made by Trantino's court-appointed counsel. However, on November 20, 2006, after extensive briefs and arguments made by Mr. Geffner, the Appellate Division affirmed the consent judgment. An application for certification was made to the New Jersey Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court denied certification on February 13, 2007, a monumental victory for victims' rights.

Mr. Geffner now works toward collecting the judgment on behalf of Mrs. Tedesco. In her words, "justice was done," thanks to the efforts of Mr. Geffner.