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\$1M in Whistleblower Case

Battaglia v. United Parcel Service: A Middlesex County jury on Feb. 27 awarded a United Parcel Service employee \$1 million on his retaliation claims.

Michael Battaglia sued under the Conscientious Employee Protection Act and Law Against Discrimination,

alleging he was punished for complaining to superiors about abuse of company credit cards and managers' derogatory remarks about women. He also aired concern about management on a hotline and, though the hotline was to be anonymous, UPS figured out it was him, says his lawyer,

Maureen Binetti.

Battaglia, now 51, claimed he was demoted from manager to supervisor and put on night duty in 2005, after 20 years on the job. He still works for UPS.

Superior Court Judge **Phillip Paley** presided at the trial. The jury awarded \$500,000 in economic damages and \$500,000 for emotional distress, says Binetti, of **Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer** in Woodbridge. **Stephanie Girona**, also of Wilentz, was her co-counsel.

Defense lawyer **Michael Bissinger** of **Day Pitney** in Florham Park did not return a call.

— By *Mary Pat Gallagher*