

## Lawyer helps man who lost car in gunfight



Remember **Ken Carrier**, the 80-year-old guy whose car was commandeered and wrecked by a pistol-waving security guard who was attempting to capture an armed robber?

Mr. Carrier now has a top insurance lawyer working for him pro bono.

After my column ran, I got a call from attorney **Ed Susolik**, saying what an outrage it was that the security company initially seemed to be hedging on putting Mr. Carrier in the same financial position he was in before the Dec. 13 incident in Lake Forest.

The security company for the robbed AT&T store initially agreed to pay for Carrier's totaled Suzuki SUV, but wasn't immediately forthcoming about paying at least \$5,750 in car rental and storage fees. The company's lawyer later said his client might be willing to pay expenses I identified.

Better that a demand be sent by Susolik, who's done more than 1,000 bad-faith lawsuits. Not insignificantly, he is also a partner at Callahan & Blaine, the law firm that just last week secured for clients a \$15.5 million settlement from the insurers for the Register's parent company. That brings to \$30 million the amount the firm has recovered in the class action it brought on behalf of former Register carriers – a lawsuit that nudged us into Chapter 11.

Last year, in the wake of the first settlement, I hit up partner **Dan Callahan** for \$2,000 for the infamous charity boxing match between **David Whiting** and me. Even though the match didn't come off, Callahan let the charities keep the money. It is my goal that over the rest of my life I extract from Callahan as much of the \$30 million as possible and get it into the hands of worthy causes.

**So last week**, I asked Susolik if he would represent Carrier for free. Sure, he said. He called Carrier and got a bunch of information. We caught up Tuesday.

"I think this case is even stronger than what I originally believed," Susolik said. "The security company is 100 percent responsible for all the losses Mr. Carrier has sustained. I'm going to do everything I can to make Mr. Carrier whole and get him back into a car."

Beyond the loss of the Suzuki (most of which was covered by Carrier's insurance) and the car-rental and storage expenses, Susolik says there might be personal injury in the form of stress and anxiety. "They held a gun up to an 80-year-old man? ... Are you kidding me?"

Furthermore, Susolik says, "he had to pull money out of his retirement savings to pay for the tow yard. That's very stressful when you are on a fixed income."

I've also now talked to the guy whose pickup collided with the guard during the chase. **Scott Stoltz** of Lake Forest said the guard swung the SUV in front of Stoltz's pickup and Stoltz hit it broadside.

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