



Customer Injured in Mercedes Lot Settles With Dealer for \$14.7 Million



Adam Slater

Cohen v. Denzel-Busch Motor Car Corp.: A customer whose foot was crushed in an accident at a Mercedes dealership accepted a \$14.7 million settlement on July 20.

On Nov. 23, 2004, Ross Cohen of Essex Fells parked his car in the lot at the Denzel-Busch Motor Car Corp. in Englewood and was walking to the service office through a narrow space between cars. An employee drove another vehicle through the space, hit the back of Cohen's knee with the bumper and drove over his left foot and ankle.

Cohen, now 40, suffered nerve damage and has complex regional pain syndrome that has made him unable to continue in a high-paying bond-broker job at UBS, an asset management company, says his lawyer, Adam Slater of Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman in Roseland.

Slater says the settlement will cover Cohen's economic losses and a life-care plan worth \$3.2 million in present value.

Thomas Wester of McDermott & McGee in Millburn and Raymond Connell of Dwyer, Connell & Lisbona in Fairfield represented the defense.

The defense evidence suggested that Cohen was aware a car was near him and should have been more watchful about where he was walking.

Connell says the defense also would have sought to raise doubts about the permanency and severity of Cohen's condition, he says.

— By Henry Gottlieb