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Former Lowell Resident Settles
By Lisa Redmond

LOWELL- A 40-year-old former Lowell resident accepted a \$510,000 settlement for permanent injuries in a scaffolding accident, as a jury was deliberating his civil case.

Paul J. LeBlanc, who moves in noticeable pain, sued Connolly Brothers Inc., Exterior Designs Inc., and United Finishers Co., LeBlanc's former employer, for a May 21, 2004 incident.

LeBlanc's Boston-based attorney, Fred Halstrom, says LeBlanc, now living in Leominster, fell from an improperly and unsafe staging/scaffolding while he was not wearing any fall-restraint devices while working on a building being constructed by Ira/Nissan in Stoneham.

Halstrom said of the settlement, "He (LeBlanc) is the little guy injured because the big guys just seek profits and don't care about jobsite safety for the lowly worker. They want to pay the little guy in cash, deny all benefits and call them independent contractors."

The companies he sued argued that LeBlanc was negligent by working in an unsafe manner.

LeBlanc, while performing sanding work in a stairwell, fell more than 10 feet from planking resting on one side of "baker" staging and the other side on "pipe" staging.

LeBlanc fractured his head, elbow and left hip. He has undergone several surgeries.

"He will never be able to participate in any impact sporting activities or any type of work involving significant amounts of weight bearing or lifting," LeBlanc's doctor wrote.

The case went to trial in late October in Lowell Superior Court. In court on Monday, the settlement amount was detailed to include trust funds for his two minor children, payment of back child support, repayment of workers' compensation and attorney fees.