

\$3 million awarded to injured worker

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BRIDGEPORT — A Trumbull contractor who was severely injured when he fell three stories through a Westport house four years ago was awarded more than \$3 million in a lawsuit settlement Wednesday.

S&V Development, of Westport, agreed to pay the settlement to Drew Perry, 44, of Avalon Gates, following mediation in Superior Court.

"Mr. Perry is an extraordinary man; it's uplifting to see how hard he has worked to make a life for himself," said Robert P. Cohen, the attorney who represented Perry along with Harold Rosnick.

Neither he nor Rosnick would comment on the settlement.

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Colleen Fries, who represented the development company, did not return calls for comment.

Perry, an HVAC installer, suffered a broken back and fractured ribs when he fell through an open stairway from the attic to the first floor of a house being built on Imperial Avenue in Westport on Aug. 7, 2002.

After lengthy surgical procedures he is now able to walk with two canes, court records state.

According to the lawsuit, Perry was climbing a wooden ladder made on site to get to the attic when the ladder slid out from under him.

The development company initially denied responsibility, claiming it had not put the ladder there.