

Man struck by loose cable gets \$1.5M

By [Jordyn Reiland](#) jreiland@lawbulletinmedia.com

POSTED April 20, 2021 11:45 AM



A_A



A man who was struck by a steel cable that came loose from a piece of building equipment in May 2018 has settled his lawsuit for \$1.5 million.

Cook County Associate Judge Melissa A. Durkin dismissed the case on March 30, according to court records.

Tyrone Pullum was walking to work on May 8, 2018, at the same time the defendants — the owners of the building, the engineering company that developed the testing protocol and the scaffolding company — were performing facade access equipment testing at 150 N. Michigan Ave.

The purpose of the testing is to ensure the scaffolding can hold any weight needed to clean or repair the outside of a building.

A cable attached to the scaffolding equipment loosened and struck Pullum while he crossed Michigan Avenue, according to court records. He sustained a herniated disc that ultimately required spinal fusion surgery. In addition to his injuries, multiple building windows were broken and nine cars near the building were damaged, according to plaintiff's attorney Regina P. Etherton of Regina P. Etherton & Associates LLC.

Pullum alleged in his lawsuit that during the testing process, the defendants did not properly tie down and secure the davit nor did they get the necessary permits before performing the testing. Typically when this type of work is being done, the sidewalk beneath the scaffolding is closed or traffic is rerouted, Etherton said.



Regina P. Etherton



The suit contended the defendants were aware the davit was not measuring weight properly that day, however, they continued with the process anyway. A davit arm, a piece of the scaffolding that broke and fell 41 floors to the street, brought with it the steel cable that struck Pullum.

The defense asserted Pullum was not hit with the cable and an unknown degenerative back condition was what required him to have surgery. Additionally, the defense argued Pullum's diabetes resulted in his ongoing neuropathy.

Etherton said both she and her clients were pleased with the resolution of the case, especially considering the court's growing case backlog as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's much harder to get issues resolved... The process itself has become more difficult with how we're operating right now," she said.

The case was mediated before former Cook County circuit judge Dennis J. Burke of ADR Systems.

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates was represented by General Counsel Stephen J. Safranek and Associate General Counsel Edmund A. Stephan, as well as Laurie A. Randolph of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP.

Safranek declined to comment.

CBRE Global Investors was represented by Geoffrey A. Belzer and Adam T. Ernette of Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP.

Belzer declined to comment.

Designed Equipment Corp. was represented by Michael D. Krause, Kristina M. Satek and Gregory V. Ginex of Connolly Krause LLC.

They could not be reached for comment.

The case is *Tyrone Pullum, et al. v. CBRE Global Investors LLC, et al.* 18 L 10026.