
\$54 million pants 'suit'

Posted by KPW1956 - 2007/06/14 11:55

This is an interesting AND absurd news piece in the D.C. area...

A local judge is suing his dry cleaner for \$54 million dollars for losing a pair of pants (or so he says)... He says they didn't live up to their satisfaction guaranteed sign in their shop.

The poor Korean couple (who by now are really poor because of legal costs) has been raked through the coals by this silly suit..

The hearings ended today and the judge is expected to rule by the end of next week.

I think this is just an opportunist and sure hope that a common sense judge is presiding over the trial! If anything, he should get the depreciated value of the pants..

I hope he loses... Something incredibly wrong with this picture.. Especially in that the complainant is a judge/lawyer! oh yeah... he's representing himself and has all kinds of charges supposedly related to the pants issue..

This is unbelievable... Ya gotta read the story.. It's pretty laughable... Apparently alot of support has come to the Chungs (the drycleaners) because of the story and a defense fund was set up. Hopefully this will at least be an encouragement to them and offset their expenses that have piled up over 2 years..

<http://www.abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/Story?id=3269485&page=1>

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Re:\$54 million pants 'suit'

Posted by Debby - 2007/06/14 17:52

I heard about this on some show. I will check out the article.

I don't know about other jurisdictions, but in NC we have a procedure called Offer of Judgement. What it means is that if you are the defendant in a legal action for money and before trial you offer a certain amount to settle the case in writing, if the Plaintiff refuses to settle for the offered amount he could be in trouble later. Because at trial if the Plaintiff recovers even \$1. under the offer of Judgment, the Plaintiff must pay the legal fees of the Defendant. I hope I explained this okay. This is to encourage people to make reason attempts to settle.

So if the Dry Cleaners offered \$100. as an offer of judgment, the Plaintiff refused to accept, and the award after trial was \$99.00, the Plaintiff even though he won would still have to pay the legal fees of the dry cleaners.

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Re:\$54 million pants 'suit'

Posted by KPW1956 - 2007/06/14 22:56

Someone on the radio this afternoon was talking about why the suit even got this far and why the judge heard the case. It should have been sent to small claims..

But I don't know all the other legal mumbo jumbo..

Since a fellow judge was the plaintiff and the plaintiff supposedly had some old laws he was trying to follow... (such as some sort of penalty per day to be assessed to the defendant)... maybe that is what complicated the case. I'd hate to think a fellow judge was giving one of their own preferential treatment.. The presiding judge is a woman..and did at one point sort of reprimanded the plaintiff.. I guess he was arguing for 'his' side... and using the term 'we'... and the judge said use the term 'I'... Rather funny to me! Him arguing his own case in the 2nd person! LOL! I guess he called himself to the stand...and supposedly cried about his emotional distress..

I know it's not supposed to, but I sure hope the judge is swayed by a little bit of public opinion.

I've never heard of that law Debby... Maybe it's a new concept whose time has come! I'm sure it would cut down on alot of frivolous suits..

I personally have a hard time believing this plaintiff...since he has twisted it excessively it taints his credibility and perhaps even his career.. How can a judge be considered fair and impartial when he is so incredulous in his own conduct?

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Re:\$54 million pants \suit'

Posted by MEW - 2007/06/15 11:57

I have worked in Dry Cleaners since 1980! You get to see many "people".

This story is so far out there! If the people didn't have the sign "Satisfaction Guarted" then there probably wouldn't be this much of a mess.....and the other person is a "Law" person and knows all the little bits that he can use against the cleaners.

I have heard stories about how " This pair of pants meant so much to me.....my grandmother gave them to me and she now has passed away.....now how am I going to manage!" True story!!

The man was asked to leave at one time and pleaded to use them again. So the cleaners agreed. Word of mouth is the best advertisement and I'm sure that the owners didn't want this wondful customer spreading bad stuff!!

I have had to throw out customers and call the cops on them! They can get real nasty! I understand that you brought in the garment with a stain.....but if it has been on there a long time it won't come out! It's just clothing! It's replacable and many cleaners will replace what is lost or damaged. It's not your arm or leg.....get over it and move on with life!!

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Re:\$54 million pants \suit'

Posted by TigerRose - 2007/06/15 23:48

In another article, the defense brought up an interesting point.... the judge/platiff had just gotthe through a costly and bitter divorce and the judge wasn't working at the time. He didn't have a lot of money to his name.

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Re:\$54 million pants \suit'

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2007/06/16 04:43

You know.....every show I've ever watched on Court TV, Judge Judy..etc...they actually explain that the law is to "make the person whole"as in NOT replacement costs.....NOT punitive.....strictly the value at the time of the item they lost.

I'm soooooooooooooo sick to death of these kind of people when we have folks who STILL are suffering losses after Katrina, and other horrendous events. OMG.....it's beyond ridiculous.....I say throw out the judge who even agreed to HEAR the case!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Re:\$54 million pants \suit'

Posted by mazy - 2007/06/16 12:42

I'm surprised the lawsuit got this far. I believe the cleaners made an offer of \$3,000 for the pants... it's evident that the plaintiff is "strange"... first for bringing the lawsuit and second for being foolish not to accept the settlement.

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Re:\$54 million pants \suit'

Posted by TigerRose - 2007/06/16 22:47

I do hope he doesn't win that amount. He trying to charge them \$15,000 for renting a car in order to take his business elsewhere!

If he wins this will open an whole new slew of lawsuit abuse.

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Re:\$54 million pants \'suit\'

Posted by KPW1956 - 2007/06/25 12:20

This is a suit that is in the D.C. area... so any developments are newsworthy.. Just watched the noon news and they are reporting that they have the judges ruling on the case.. Of course they expect the plaintiff to appeal. The Korean couple who were sued are calling a press conference this afternoon. The reporter is saying that they (the couple) don't expect that this will be over..(because of the appeals process).

The reporter is saying that the judge is siding with the cleaners.. and that the plaintiff will be ordered to pay some of the defendants court expenses.. Legal fees were not specified.. but I sure hope so..

I'm sure more will be hitting the newswires this afternoon after the press conference.

In essence, it looks like the court smacked down the plaintiff!

Post edited by: KPW1956, at: 2007/06/25 12:23

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Re:\$54 million pants \'suit\'

Posted by KPW1956 - 2007/06/25 15:25

Here is a link to the update/verdict..

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070625/ap_on_re_us/67_million_pants

I sure am glad and have a little bit or restored faith in the justice system.. I sure hope the idiocy of this case creates some reform to prevent frivolous lawsuits..

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Re:\$54 million pants \'suit\'

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2007/06/28 02:24

Oh me too KP!!!!!!! I'm soooo relieved!!!! It was such an obvious.....I love the Judge's words....."abusive lawsuit".....yes it was!!!! Yaaaay for Justice!!!

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Re:\$54 million pants \'suit\'

Posted by TigerRose - 2007/07/17 05:53

This guy just won't give up.

Judge won't reconsider \$54 million pants suit

He really seems set on destroying this couple.

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Re:\$54 million pants \'suit\'

Posted by KPW1956 - 2007/07/17 07:15

I think they guy is enjoying his notoriety. As this article mentions, it has been a widely mocked case and he doesn't stand a chance.

He probably doesn't have any money to even pay what he's been ordered to pay. The dry cleaner owners had hoped it was over and didn't seek their revenge by sueing him back. But maybe they should! Who knows how he may try to capitalize on this sometime down the road. He may write a book or do some sort of talk show circuit. Hopefully everyone shuts him down...so that that doesn't happen.

As it is, he may have done himself in professionally.

Bravo to the judge who won't reopen the case.

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