

**The Big Question**

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From: "NEGA MEZLEKIA" <negativezlekia@rogers.com>**To:** "David Foulds" <dfoulds@davis.ca>

David,

Now that you have had the chance to review the complete evidence--the defense is unlikely to produce any surprises--you are in a position to answer the biggest question of all, the damages.

You may recall that when I first met you, in 2002, I asked you a set of questions, one of which was what you considered to be the appropriate compensation in a case like mine; you told me that most settlements were in the range of mid to high six figures. And I have since adjusted my expectations, although I have one of the strongest libel cases. I want to clarify the compensation issue now, because of the following reasons.

The way you have handled the case so far is not something that you, or *Davis LLP*, could be proud of. Far from providing me with a vigorous defence, you have done everything in your power to get rid of me. I could trace this back to the time you discovered--some three years ago--that I had depleted my savings and that I might not be able to write you five-figure cheques any more.

When you left the case dormant for an entire year and I was looking for a way to get you to revive it, I was faced with a major dilemma: Even if I managed to persuade you to breathe life into the case, would you be willing to pursue it wholeheartedly? And when I offered you a share of the final settlement as an incentive and you said you preferred the payment in advance, before even providing me with the service, I couldn't help but wonder if you were not going to tell me in the end to settle for a pittance.

I have no desire to change lawyer at such a late stage, but if my one remaining fear is also going to materialise, then I will be left with little choice. Given the strength of my case, I have no doubt that I will find someone who will get me an appropriate settlement. Then, I will be ready for an epic battle with *Davis LLP*, for all the years I suffered under the firm.

Hopefully, it won't come to that. You may decide to do the right thing this once and I may be able to write, "Despite the years of harrowing ordeal, *Davis LLP* was finally able to come through." Everyone loves a good ending to a story; with your cooperation, this saga too could have one.

Nega Mezlekia