

# Firm Wants Former Employee's Millions From Recent Settlement; 'Absurd,' He Replies

*Forbes* tells **the story** of a plaintiffs lawyer who worked on a long-running class action for the past 13 years, and now his former firm wants nearly all of his \$2.45 million in fees from a settlement, even though he resigned from the firm in 2004.

"On June 5, the Pittsburgh law firm Specter Specter Evans & Manogue filed a lawsuit against [R. Bruce] Carlson, who left the firm long ago to create Carlson Lynch in 2004," explains John O'Brien, *Forbes* contributor and editor of Legal Newsline. "The Specter firm alleges Carlson owes it nearly all of his \$2.45 million in fees gained in a recent \$24 million settlement regarding fees imposed on those who took out second mortgages from Community Bank of Northern Virginia."

The firm cites a separation agreement, but Carlson says the firm was only entitled to a percentage of his fees if the original 2003 settlement was approved. An appellate court rejected that settlement, and the case went on for another 11 years.

**Read the *Forbes* article.**