

## Local

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## Lawsuit

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Sy's car to ask for directions.

"Here was this man who was saying that he was too sick to even attend trial, yet he was easily walking in and out of restaurants to meet with other clients. When I asked him directions, he was easily able to give them to me, and they weren't simple directions either," Ellman said.

After obtaining the footage, Ellman and Li were able to push the judge for a trial date, and on March 24, their clients were finally awarded \$4 million.

Ellman said that working on the case was very emotional for him.

Ten of the doctors involved dropped off the case before it could even close. Some of them were too exhausted to continue and said the trial took up too much time and money. Two of the doctors died before the case could be closed.

"We felt what they felt. It was a terrible disappointment and loss of faith for these people. When we took over the case, these people were at a point where they were ready to give up, and it was hard for them to continue. You never know the outcome of a case, but if you put in some effort at least it gives you a chance," Ellman said.

# Man's law library, knowledge help win lawsuits

## Documents for \$4 million fraud case filled up a moving van

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HAMPTON—Kenneth Ellman's personal library, which he began 30 years ago, holds more than 3,000 volumes of law books.

The Hampton-based investigator and litigation specialist says his love of reading and extensive research helped him bring to a close an 18-year-old real estate fraud case.

He wasn't even daunted when the reading for the case arrived at his office: A moving van showed up at Ellman's Hampton home in 2005 to drop off all the documents.

Ellman says that if it weren't for his love of "facts" and reading, he would have had a difficult time

moving through the case.

"Everything is very electronic nowadays, but I just happen to like books," he said. "People say, 'Why so many books? They take up so much room,' but there is just something about having a tangible page right there in front of you. Besides, not everything is online," Ellman said.

"Documentwise, this was one of the biggest cases that we've ever covered. There were over 10 cartons of documents. They took up almost a whole room," said Feng Li, the Parsippany-based attorney who worked with the plaintiffs.

Last month New York Supreme Court Justice Allan Weiss awarded the plaintiffs more than \$4 million.

The deal began in 1984 when a group of 15 Chinese doctors working at Yonkers General Hospital in New York agreed to invest in real estate with their friend and fellow physician Fabian A. Sy.

With the investors' money, Sy was to purchase and manage two buildings in Flushing, Queens, but by 1988, most of the doctors were beginning to get suspicious. Sy was unable to provide any financial statements or business reports.

In 1990, they sued Sy. The extensive case carried on for nearly two decades, hindered by delays like changes in judges and lawyers, and the cancellation of trials.

In 2005, the group of doctors

contacted Li's law office in Parsippany.

With the help of Li and Ellman, who works as Li's litigation specialist, the doctors finally were awarded the money.

Ellman spent months reading through all the documents and also kept with on Sy's medical records.

Ellman said Sy often canceled trial dates citing that he was sick from suffering a stroke. About two years ago, Ellman obtained taped footage of Sy entering restaurants and talking with business clients when he claimed that he was too sick to attend trial.

Ellman recalled walking up to

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Photo by Anna Murphey/New Jersey Herald

Kenneth Ellman, left, and Feng Li discuss the 23-year real estate fraud case they were able to bring to a close.