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Painter settles his claim with ComEd for \$4.7 million

By BILL MYERS*Law Bulletin staff writer*

A 45-year-old house painter who was severely shocked in a 2002 accident has agreed to settle his personal injury claims against ComEd for \$4.7 million.

Krzystof Nejman was painting a Lincoln Park condominium when his aluminum ladder touched electrical wires near the building.

The force of the electricity charge knocked Nejman to the

ground. He suffered second-degree burns over 40 percent of his body, broke both heels and several ribs, and fractured his spine.

In his suit, Nejman claimed that his employers told him that the electricity in the lines had been shut off. He also claimed that the wires were too close to the condo building, violating safety codes.

Cook County Circuit Judge Robert E. Gordon approved the settlement on Wednesday.

ComEd has filed a cross-claim

against the condo association, the building management company and the painting company that hired Nejman.

The defendants have blamed one another for the accident — the condo association and building manager claimed that ComEd was asked to turn the power off but did not, ComEd claimed that the co-defendants made no such request — but ComEd decided to come to terms with Nejman, according to their lawyer, John W.

Bell of Johnson & Bell Ltd.

“This man was very seriously injured. We felt it would be better to resolve our dispute and then let the defendants worry about who did what,” Bell said.

Nejman spent three months in the hospital and has undergone 12 surgeries since the accident.

Nejman was represented by Mark E. McNabola of Cogan & McNabola P.C.

Krzystof Nejman v. L & D Decoration, et al., No. 03 L 6727.