

Bartlit Beck Wins Enhanced Damages For Willful Patent Infringement Against Ford Motor Company

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In December 2008, Mark Ferguson led the Bartlit Beck trial team (including Hamilton Hill, Adam Mortara, and Martha Pacold) that won a \$23 million patent infringement verdict against Ford Motor Company on behalf of individual inventor Jacob Krippelz, Sr. Krippelz is the 77- year old Chief Executive Officer of Jake's, Inc., a machining and equipment refurbishing concern in Aurora, Illinois. The Krippelz patent, on an automotive lighting system used widely in exterior rear view mirrors, was issued in 1991.

Earlier this year, after extensive briefing and oral argument, the Court found that Ford willfully infringed Mr. Krippelz's patent. Adam Mortara argued the issue of willful infringement for Mr. Krippelz.

Today the Court awarded enhanced damages and prejudgment interest to bring the total award to approximately \$56MM. The Court also awarded Krippelz his costs; and Krippelz will be asking the Court to declare this case "exceptional" and award attorneys' fees.