

Plaintiffs' Attorneys at Eaves Law Firm Encourage Shops to Share Stories About Alleged Steering

by **Stacey Phillips**, Assistant Editor

Auto body shops in 36 states are now part of the antitrust Multi District Lawsuit (MDL) in Florida. **John Eaves Jr.**, the lead attorney for the plaintiffs, is encouraging shop owners across the country to share their stories about alleged steering and other insurance practices, regardless whether or not they are part of the lawsuit.

Eaves Law Firm in Mississippi plans to use these experiences to help prepare affidavits for an injunction the firm is about to file. "This injunction is going to be asking the court to stop the insurance company's steering practices and other retaliatory practices," he said.

In March, *Autobody News* reported that Judge **Gregory Presnell** in Florida had dismissed a large portion of the lawsuit. "Since that has happened, we actually found out more information," said Eaves. The law firm has been preparing the documentation to refile the claims that were dismissed without prejudice.

When Autobody News spoke to

Eaves, he said that Judge Presnell indicated that he wants more specifics in regards to the lawsuit. In response, Eaves Law Firm has been rewriting the lawsuits to include specific information from the auto body shops.

Although Eaves said this was not their original intention, the Eaves team has been collecting information from the shops. "We've tried to give the judge enough detail and enough information so he can have the confidence to move forward," he said.

He also said that some of the lawsuits have been put on hold until the firm can best determine how the judge wants them filed. Then the other lawsuits can be filed in a similar manner. Each state's lawsuit has a different deadline.

Eaves and his team have also been focusing on answering the defendants' move to dismiss the lawsuit.

There is a standing court date once a month, with the latest one held on March 6. Eaves said the purpose of that hearing was to speed up the process. "Thanks to the leadership of Judge

See *Eaves Law Firm*, Page 31

PartsTrader Adds 3 Strategic Account Managers

PartsTrader has announced the appointment of three collision industry veterans as Strategic Account Managers. **Michael Noiro**, **Mike Stacy**, and **Dave Apseloff** join the company and will advocate for specific segments of the collision repair industry. Michael Noiro is the Strategic Account Manager focused on insurance accounts. Noiro is a 26 year veteran of the collision and insurance claims industry. He was director of national accounts for Mitchell International and ADP Claims Services Group (AudaExplore) and vice president of the collision division of the Automotive Service Association (ASA). For the past eight years he worked at CARFAX, Inc. as the primary liaison to the P & C insurance industry. Mike Stacy joins PartsTrader as the Strategic Account Manager serving the multi-shop operator market. A seasoned automotive sales professional when he joined CCC in 1992, Stacy quickly became the company's #1 auto body sales representative for several years, ultimately rising to the position of Zone Vice President and managing 28 colleagues in CCC's Western Region. After a decade of service, he opened up and ran two award-winning AAMCO franchises before joining VeriFacts as Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Stacy served as Director of Corporate Strategy for Seidner's Collision Centers, a southern California MSO

with 14 locations, for the last two years. Dave Apseloff joins PartsTrader as the Strategic Account Manager serving the OEM and Dealer Group segment, bringing over 20 years of industry experience to his new role. His unique combination of high level relationship management skills paired with his deep knowledge of the needs and capabilities of automobile industry software and applications make Apseloff a strong fit for the organization. Immediately prior to joining PartsTrader, he was the OEM General Manager for Dealer Tire. He spent 18 years at Reynolds & Reynolds, where he rose through the ranks to hold several regional management roles, including software implementation and professional services, before moving into managing key OEM accounts.

"We consider ourselves fortunate to be able to attract such industry leaders to our team, allowing us to continue the forward momentum PartsTrader has experienced over the past year," said **Dale Sailer**, Vice President of Business Development. The three new Strategic Account Managers will join **Ken Weiss**, PartsTrader Strategic Account Manager for the alternative parts channel, in working across the organization to ensure that the necessary corporate resources are aligned to deliver on the company's client commitments and its own internal business plan.

ASCCA/CAA to Hold 'Legislative Fly-In' on April 14

The California Autobody Association (CAA) is partnering with ASCCA for the 2015 Legislative Fly-In on Tuesday, April 14. Transportation from the airport, food, and the scheduling of legislative appointments will be taken care of by the organizations, while registration and airfare must be taken care of by the individual. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first-serve basis, and space is limited.

Past speakers have included:

- Chief, Bureau of Automotive Repair;
- Governor's Small Business Advocate, Governor's Economic Adviser;
- Chair, Select Committee on Career Technical Education & Workforce Development

ASCCA has arranged for *Chaz Cab* to provide round-trip transportation to/from the Capitol at no charge. Once you have arrived at the airport, call 916-952-8531, give them your name, and mention that you are with the ASCCA group. Chaz Cab will direct bill ASCCA. If you require hotel accommodations, contact Lauren at 916-924-9054 x105 or lstoddard@amgroup.us

8-9 a.m. Welcome Breakfast
9-9:30 a.m. Special Guest Speaker
9:30-noon Legislative Appointments
Noon-1 p.m. Lunch
1-2:30 p.m. Legislative Appointments

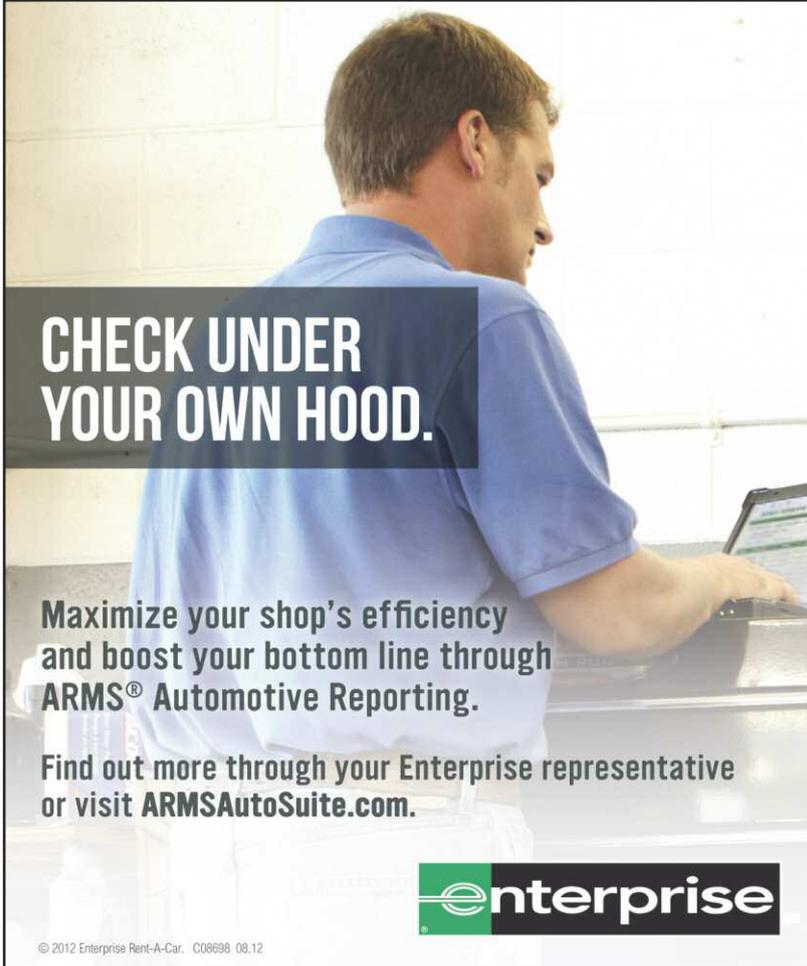
CAA Responds to CNN Report

The California Autobody Association recently responded to the CNN report, "Are Cheap Repairs Part of an Insurance Scheme?" The segment can be viewed at <http://cnn.it/1EZTGPa>.

California Autobody Association (CAA) members adhere to a code of ethics of honesty, integrity and craftsmanship and include performing high quality repair service at a fair and just price; to have a sense of personal obligation to each individual customer; to use only proven merchandise of high quality and distributed by reputable firms; to uphold the high standards of our profession and to always seek to correct any and all abuses with the auto body industry; and to comply with all laws and regulations.

CAA members invest in sophisticated equipment and specialized education and training to ensure customers' vehicles are properly and safely repaired. The CAA has worked closely and will continue to work with the vehicle manufacturers, state legislature, government protection bureaus, department, agencies, and industry stakeholders and to take active measures that are needed to strengthen consumer protections and add accountability for auto body repairs.

For information, contact CAA Executive Director **David McClune** 916-557-8100 or www.calautobody.com.



CHECK UNDER YOUR OWN HOOD.

Maximize your shop's efficiency and boost your bottom line through ARMS® Automotive Reporting.

Find out more through your Enterprise representative or visit ARMSAutoSuite.com.

 enterprise

© 2012 Enterprise Rent-A-Car. C08698 08.12

Urethane Supply Company Releases I-CAR Course® on Nitrogen Plastic Welding

Nitrogen plastic welding, a technology first commercialized by *Urethane Supply Company* in 2006, has been growing in popularity over the years as shops look to keep more labor dollars in-house.

Unfortunately, many shops that have purchased welders have not been able to take full advantage of their capabilities due to inadequate training or technician turnover.

To address this need for training, Urethane Supply Company is announcing the availability of a new training course: PR-01 Introduction to Nitrogen Plastic Welding.

This training is approved for I-CAR credit hours and/or Knowledge Area recognition through the I-CAR Industry Training Alliance® program.

The PR-01 Nitrogen Plastic Welding course is designed for delivery to up to three technicians in the customer's shop.

The training takes roughly three hours and focuses primarily on the hands-on skills necessary to repair bumpers.

The learning objectives for the course are as follows:

- Identify different plastic types

- Explain the basic nitrogen welding process
- Properly operate the plastic welder
- Weld a tear to the edge of the bumper
- Repair a torn slot tab
- Repair a torn flange
- Repair a torn flexible hinge tab
- Repair a thermoset polyurethane (PUR) bumper

North American shops interested in scheduling this training must register online at www.urethanesupply.com/training.

The cost of the course is \$400 for up to three technicians. Once a reservation is made, Urethane Supply's training manager will contact the shop's representative and schedule an appointment.

Questions? Contact Kurt Lammon at 800-633-3047

Follow us on Twitter:



Accept no Substitutes!

Talent Monger Holds Collision Industry Job Fair in PA

Talent Monger LLC will be holding a Collision Industry Job Fair for shops and technicians in the Western PA area on May 7.

Talent Monger is a collision industry service launched in late 2014 to connect qualified employees with the collision shops looking to hire them. Co-founder **Greg McVicker** said he created Talent Monger after a decade of frustration trying to find and hire employees for his dealership collision center.

Talent Monger is committed to connecting the industry through partnerships with trade schools, industry groups and job fairs.

The job fair will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe, PA from 10 am to 2 pm on May 7.

It will be free for students and technicians to attend, and free for shops to have a booth. Space is limited so McVicker recommends registering early.

To register for the job fair, visit www.talentmonger.com or email info@thetalentmonger.com.



Continued from Page 30

Eaves Law Firm

Smith, who is the magistrate on the case, we discussed several ways to expedite the process."

Meanwhile, auto body shops are continuing to join the MDL, with 20 more being added the week prior to *Autobody News* going to press.

Eaves said he wants the case to be the best it can be. "We're working to ensure it is as comprehensive as possible and lays out all of the unfair trade practices and all of those things that have made it difficult for our shops to do their job," he said.

Auto body shops across the country that wish to share their stories should contact steve@eaveslaw.com

Check out our
NEW website at:

western.autobodynews.com

Register and login to comment

Urethane
Supply
Company

PLASTIC REPAIR GURUS

STICKY-MAN SEEKS INSPIRATION FROM THE ELDERS OF PLASTIC REPAIR...

STICKY-MAN, WE HAVE CHOSEN YOU AS THE PLASTIC REPAIR GURU TO SPREAD KNOWLEDGE OF PLASTIC REPAIR TO THE MASSES!



THE INCREDIBLE STICKY-MAN

EPISODE 32
THE NEW GURU

TOGETHER WITH TRAINED INSTRUCTORS, YOU SHALL TEACH URETHANE SUPPLY'S I-CAR® INDUSTRY TRAINING ALLIANCE® COURSES TO THOSE WHO SEEK WISDOM!



TELL ALL WHO SEEK KNOWLEDGE OF PLASTIC REPAIR TO CALL 800-633-3047 TO SCHEDULE A TRAINING CLASS.



THE PATH YOU HAVE CHOSEN IS ARDUOUS; DO NOT SUCCEMB TO TEMPTATION ALONG THE WAY...



800-633-3047

www.urethanesupply.com

[f UrethaneSupply](https://www.facebook.com/UrethaneSupply)

[@StickyManUSC](https://twitter.com/StickyManUSC)

URETHANE SUPPLY COMPANY

URETHANE SUPPLY COMPANY