

Legionnaires' vic sues Bx. hotel where it started

A Bronx man who contracted Legionnaires' disease has filed a lawsuit against the Opera House Hotel, which was the flashpoint of this summer's deadly outbreak.

Leslie Noble, 54, hasn't been able to work since late July when he contracted the

potentially deadly disease, according to his lawyer, Ronald Katter, who filed a civil complaint in Bronx Supreme Court on Friday.

The outbreak of the disease has been traced to a rooftop cooling tower at the Bronx hotel, city health officials have said.

The outbreak sickened 128 people, 12 of them fatally, according to officials.

Noble is out of the hospital and is expected to survive but still isn't completely well, Katter said.

"Solely as a result of the defendant's negligence, carelessness and reckless-

ness, Leslie Noble was caused to suffer severe and serious personal injuries to his mind and body, and further ... Noble was subjected to great physical pain and mental anguish," the lawsuit says.

The suit seeks unspecified damages.

Michael McKeon, a spokesman for the hotel, accused Noble's lawyers of looking for an easy payday.

"We expect that some lawyers will attempt to cash in on this unfortunate event, but we have lawyers to handle these matters, too," McKeon said. *David K. Li*