



Jonathan Rosenfeld

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Driver claiming partial disability sues boxer; Golota caused crash, woman says

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Top heavyweight boxer Andrew Golota is being sued over an April traffic accident that allegedly left a woman partially disabled.

Juliet Mendez says the Chicago fighter blew through a stop sign and slammed into the side of her car at Armitage and Honore on April 6.

Mendez, 18, was "permanently injured to her back and neck" and incurred "substantial medical bills" after the accident, according to her attorney, **Jonathan Rosenfeld**.

"She has no idea who he is," he said of Golota's notoriety. "She's only concerned with seeing to it that she gets fair compensation for her injuries."

Golota, who is training for a heavyweight fight, did not return calls. But his wife, attorney Mariola Golota, said the accident "looked like a fender-bender to me."

Golota was driving a friend's 2007 Lexus north on Honore when he allegedly slammed into a 1999 Chevy Malibu driven westbound on Armitage by Mendez, a clerical worker.

Golota, an Olympic bronze medalist for Poland who has had multiple shots at boxing's heavyweight title, was ticketed, but charges were later dropped. No ambulance went to the scene, and accident reports indicate only property damage, according to his attorney, Matthew P. Walsh II.

Walsh and Golota have not seen the lawsuit filed last week in Cook County Circuit Court, which seeks in excess of \$50,000.

This isn't the first time Golota -- who has fought the likes of Mike Tyson and Riddick Bowe -- has been sued for causing a traffic accident, court records show. In 2003, Golota settled a civil suit stemming from a traffic accident by paying \$500,000, while he settled a 1999 case for \$60,000.

Last year, he was found guilty of failing to have a proper gun permit. He was fined and was put on probation.

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