

MASSACHUSETTS LAWYERS WEEKLY

August 5, 2002



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

When Lynn attorney **Michael F. Mahoney** got a customized van with an elevator lift to serve his own needs as a partially paralyzed lawyer, he probably never imagined that it would boost business.

But did it ever.



Michael Mahoney's office on wheels

Soon Mahoney says he began using the van to meet disabled accident victims, elderly clients and others who need a lawyer who can come to them.

"I get lots of personal injury clients referred to me by other attorneys, and they appreciate that I can service victims of catastrophic injury where they reside," Mahoney says.

The van has become a full blown mobile office, complete with everything Mahoney needs to service a client from the time of the accident until trial.

"I have a swiveling laptop mounted into the console for taking notes, sending e-mail and creating files, along with a fax machine, a DVD and a printer-scanner device," notes Mahoney.

He also has digital cameras and other photography equipment to document a plaintiff's injuries or reproduce an actual accident site in state-of-the-art fashion.

"My elderly and disabled clients love this mobile office, and they love entering it through the elevator lift," he says, adding that they are "so very grateful that I can serve them this way."

Recently, Mahoney brought the mobile office to a roofer who fell and broke his leg in several places; to a woman with a severely broken shoulder; and to an elderly client who could not drive.

He notes that disabled and elderly clients also have trouble getting into certain courts that are not accessible to people with disabilities.

Mahoney recalls one Haverhill District Court case in which the clerk, a court officer and witnesses came to his van to hold a hearing in his mobile office during inclement weather.

Mahoney notes that his associate, **John J. Martino** of Lynn, is often able to service clients using the van when Mahoney is otherwise occupied in court or with other clients at the office.

The traveling trial lawyer quips that he can now bring a mobile branch office to every city from the port of his full sized office in Lynn.