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Disappointed with justice

The parents of a young woman struck and killed in a hit-and-run say they are frustrated with the slow pace of the justice system

By [NADIA MOHARIB](#), CALGARY SUN

The parents of a young woman struck and killed in a hit-and-run say the slow and frustrating pace of the justice system doesn't compare to the pain of a life without their daughter.

Leslie and Gerald Giacomelli sat through gut-wrenching testimony this past week at the trial of Colin Jones, the man accused of leaving the scene after 20-year-old Lindsay Giacomelli was struck while in a Bonaventure crosswalk.

Each day half the court room was filled with friends and family there to support them as they watched the legal proceedings.

The trial, which wrapped up this week but resumes for four days in February, was originally set for last December.

There were several other court adjournments before the case made it to trial.

"I find it very stressful," Leslie said of the twists and turns the justice system took to finally see the case go to trial in addition to the prospect of another four months before it resumes.

"Six to eight weeks before you start reliving the accident all over again, you psych yourself up and then the trial doesn't happen."

"Now I have four or five months to think about what else has to come."

"Then it will be almost two years of anxiety on top of missing Lindsay every minute of every day."

She said she will be relieved when the legal chapter is finally closed.

"Then I could just be mourning my daughter not just this constant pain of living without her," she said.

Jones has told court he had no recollection of striking Giacomelli nor driving away as she lay critically hurt.

His defence lawyer Balfour Der said Jones has long history of depression and therefore did not have the requisite intent for hit and run.

Gerald said his family is acutely aware they are not alone in facing the tragedy of losing someone after they were struck by a motorist who drove away.

He said the law has to be changed so the penalties are there to discourage such heartless behavior.

“From what I’ve seen it’s six months to two years of jail time or conditional sentence,” he said.

“The way the law reads is - ‘Just run.’”

“This story is bigger than Lindsay .. this is a system that needs shaking up.”

The family said they hope a bill being drafted to look at minimum sentences - seven years in the cases of fatal hit-and-runs - will make its way through parliament.

Until then the couple are bracing themselves for more testimony and the sentence which they know will be unable to make amends for the waste of a “good life.”