

## Dad wants tough hit-and-run sentences

### Victim's father says shaking up system key to changing attitudes of neglectful drivers

By [NADIA MOHARIB](#), CALGARY SUN

Only stiffer sentences for motorists who leave the scene after striking a pedestrian will send a message for others to stay, says the father of a woman killed by a hit-and-run driver.

Gerald Giacomelli said the law allows for stiff sentences for hit-and-runs but rarely is it the case that tough ones get doled out.

This week he and his wife Leslie sat through testimony at the trial of Colin Jones, the man accused in the fatal hit-and-run of their daughter, 20-year-old Lindsay, March 17, 2005.

Giacomelli said weak sentences for hit-and-runs hardly offer encouragement for others to stay at the scene.

"This story is bigger than Lindsay," he said. "This is a system that needs shaking up.

"I've seen six months to two years of jail time or a conditional sentence," he said.

Jones, in an agreed statement of facts, said he struck Lindsay, but said he has no recollection of doing so.

His lawyer Balfour Der said his client has suffered depression for many years and therefore did not have the required intent.

Giacomelli hopes to see an amendment to the Criminal Code requiring a minimum sentence for those who fail to remain at the scene of an accident where someone is hurt.

It proposes a mandatory minimum penalty of seven years to a maximum of life in prison for failing to remain at the scene where an individual dies.

The trial resumes in February.