



Reeves-paparazzo civil trial begins

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A civil trial on allegations actor Keanu Reeves tried to run over a celebrity news photographer with his Porsche 911 got underway today, with opening arguments heard by the jury.

The plaintiff's lawyer, Joseph Farzam, said his paparazzi client, Alison Silva, fell to the ground and hurt his hand when Reeves drove his car into him on March 19, 2007.

He claimed \$US40,000 (\$64,626) in medical expenses for the injury.

Reeve's lawyer, Alfred Gerisch, in turn said Mr Silva was three metres from the actor's car during the alleged incident in a posh neighbourhood in south-west Los Angeles.

He accused the photographer of aggressive behaviour.

The star of Matrix and Speed is expected to take the stand later today.

In September, a Los Angeles judge dismissed assault claims filed against Reeves by Mr Silva, saying there was no evidence to support the allegations, ruling out a criminal trial.

The judge said Mr Silva had fallen when he tripped over his own feet and that Mr Reeves himself appeared to have been the victim of an assault by Mr Silva when the photographer put his hands on the actor's car.

- AFP

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