

JUNE 2006 AUTOMOBILEMAG.COM

# Automobile

# BUGATTI ★ THE WORLD'S FASTEST CAR ★ VEYRON

## COAST TO COAST IN THE USA



USA \$4.99  
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# PORSCHE 911 GT3

The world's only road-legal race car

**FIRST  
TEST  
911  
TURBO**

Q&amp;A

## Patrick Cousins

Lemon-law lawyer, president, Cousins Law Firm, P.A.

**How many cases have you litigated?**  
We've analyzed maybe 4000 cars and lemon-lawed 400 to 500.

**What's your fee?**

Usually we charge a flat fee of \$4000, but here in Florida and in many other states the manufacturer will reimburse the consumer afterward.

**Are cars getting better or worse?**

Cars are getting worse. They're better from a safety standpoint, but technology is so advanced that electrical issues are getting more common. I had a client with a Mercedes-Benz SL600. Every time the car was started, the auto-leveling suspension would drop the body onto the tires, making the car unable to move.

**Which companies are difficult to work with?****Easy?**

Toughest: Porsche. They just don't think they do anything wrong.  
Easiest: BMW and Honda. They want to make the customer happy and will just take care of it.

**Which brands do you see the most frequently? Rarely?**

Mercedes-Benz has taken a real nosedive. We see more products from Mercedes than from any other company. If we ever

see a Honda, it's a shocker. If a Honda comes in, it's usually for something a bit suspect, such as an uncomfortable seat or something simple like that.

**Can a minor problem get a car lemon-lawed?**

Yes. A client with a Mazda 626 complained of getting a spark every time she touched the door handle. When we asked the manufacturer if they had ever seen this problem before, they stupidly said no. Because of this, the car was considered a lemon. In another case, a woman complained about a bad odor in her car. Moments before stepping into the courtroom, she pulled out a cigarette and lit it. I turned to her in astonishment, as I was unaware she was a smoker. I explained to her that the cigarette smoke was causing the bad odor. In the end, we still went to trial and won, because I argued that the carbon filter in the car should have eliminated the bad odor.

**Marc Noordeloos**

**DRIVERS MUST SHOW PROOF OF PIERCINGS**

ESPN has announced that it will add two days of rallying to the slate of events at this year's X Games,



scheduled for August 3-6. A six-stage traditional rally will be held on the first day, and a special stadium event will take place on the second.

**IT WAS THE K-CAR THAT REALLY CEMENTED IT**

At their second annual Autorox auto awards show, the rad lads at Spike TV presented their Icon Award to former Chrysler chairman and CEO Lee Iacocca.

**MAZDA STRETCHES THE CX****MAZDA CX-9**

Mazda is supplementing its just-released CX-7 crossover with the new, longer CX-9. The CX-9 will offer three-row seating for up to seven, whereas the CX-7, naturally, seats five. In place of the CX-7's turbo four, the CX-9 goes with a 250-hp, 3.5-liter V-6. It reaches dealers early next year.

**SUZUKI XL7 GETS MORE XL****SUZUKI XL7**

The new Suzuki XL7 switches to the Chevrolet Equinox platform, tacking eight inches onto the back to make room for a third row. Suzuki also betters its GM siblings with a 3.6-liter DOHC V-6. It arrives late this year, priced from \$23,000 to \$29,000.



The father of the Ford Mustang and Mustang II, the Chrysler minivan, and the K-car, Iacocca follows last year's honoree, Carroll Shelby.