

U.S. TV star Ed McMahon sued over legal bills

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By Edith Honan

NEW YORK, July 30 (Reuters) - Former U.S. television star Ed McMahon's financial and legal woes worsened on Wednesday -- as well as fighting to save his home from foreclosure, he is now being sued for not paying a lawyer hired for his daughter.

McMahon, 85, longtime sidekick to talk show host Johnny Carson, failed to pay divorce attorney Norman Solovay \$275,168, according to the lawsuit filed in Manhattan federal court.

McMahon and his wife, Pamela, hired Solovay to represent Linda Schmerge, his daughter from another relationship, in a "matrimonial matter," said Solovay's lawyer, **Michael Shanker**.

A representative for McMahon, who is most famous for his 30 years of introducing Carson with his trademark "Heeeeeeeere's Johnny" and hosting popular TV talent show "Star Search" in the '80s and '90s, said his client had not seen the complaint.

"We reserve comment until we've had the chance to review the documents, which we haven't been served with yet," said McMahon's publicist Howard Bragman.

McMahon has been fighting to save his multimillion-dollar Beverly Hills home from foreclosure since February, when his mortgage lenders filed a notice of default.

Then earlier this month, McMahon sued a Los Angeles hospital, claiming its doctors failed to diagnose his broken neck after a fall and discharged him without taking an X-ray.

He has said that the injuries from the fall have kept him from working and have contributed to him falling about \$644,000 in arrears on the mortgage for the six-bedroom, five-bathroom home in an exclusive area of Beverly Hills. (Editing Michelle Nichols and Eric Beech)