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IF YOU THINK you got a bad speeding ticket from a state cop who used a Genesis hand-held radar gun, you can fight it in court.

Here's how, according to J. Michael Sheldon, the lawyer who exposed the problem with the Genesis radar gun.

* You'll probably need a lawyer. Call the Philadelphia Bar Association lawyer-referral service (215-238-6333) or a bar association in the county where you got the ticket.

* At your hearing in Philadelphia Traffic Court or before a district justice, the trooper who wrote the ticket will testify. On cross-examination, your lawyer can ask which type of radar gun was used to catch you.

* If you're found guilty at the hearing, you have 30 days to appeal to Common Pleas Court.

* Sometime before your Common Pleas hearing, your lawyer should issue a subpoena for the state trooper to bring maintenance records for the radar gun he was using.

"Once he gets on the stand with the records, you have to show this particular radar unit has been defective in the past," said Sheldon. "Once you do, then you can say we can surmise it is once again malfunctioning because it showed you were doing 72 mph in a 45 mph zone, and the last time it broke it showed someone was doing 71 mph in a 45 mph zone."

* To make sure you win the Common Pleas hearing, your lawyer should subpoena Timothy Shingara, a former state police radar expert.

"Mr. Shingara can provide a background, like he did for my case," Sheldon said. "Unless he has information about that particular unit, there's a question about relevance. However, he can provide an overview of what the problem is with the Genesis radar guns."

* If you have already lost your case or paid your fine, you can consider filing a civil lawsuit against the state police, alleging they knowingly used defective equipment to ticket people, said attorney Tom Sheridan.

"I think anyone who pled guilty or was found guilty of speeding would have a claim against the state police for a civil rights violation," Sheridan said. "Obviously that assumes we're able to document that they knew it was defective and used it, anyway."

"This is no different than if they prosecute somebody with tainted evidence from a crime lab," he said.