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Trial between CFMEU, Boral mysteriously halted after meeting

THE trial between the CFMEU and construction giant Boral has been mysteriously adjourned after lawyers for both parties had an unprecedented private in-chambers meeting with the judge.

Padraic Murphy

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Mick Gatto allegedly offered to resolve a CFMEU and Boral dispute. Picture: Alex Coppel Source: News Corp Australia

THE trial between the CFMEU and construction giant Boral has been mysteriously adjourned after lawyers for both parties had an unprecedented private in-chambers meeting with the judge.

After Rachel Doyle SC, for the CFMEU and Stuart Wood QC, for Boral, returned from Justice Kevin Bell's chambers all that was said in open court was an "issue" had arisen with Boral boss Paul Dalton, who is in the middle of giving evidence.

The adjournment comes after revelations underworld fighter Mick Gatto had allegedly approached Boral and asked for \$100,000 to resolve a blockade that was costing the company millions.

Boral is suing the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union in the Supreme Court for \$28 million damages over a two-year blockade the construction company says caused chaos that drove customers to competitors.

The blockade began after Boral refused to stop supplying concrete to construction giant Grocon — an enemy of the union.

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Mr Dalton told the court the demand had followed an “off-the-record meeting” at a North Melbourne cafe in 2013, at which he said CFMEU bosses John Setka and Shaun Reardon threatened the company.

The trial is expected to resume with a new witness this afternoon.

The court has been asked for comment about the in-chambers meeting.

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