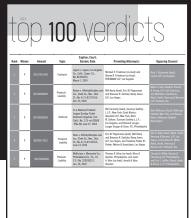
# ALM LAW.COM THE TOP 100 VERDICTS OF 2024 2025 Edition





# THE TOP 100 VERDICTS

Law.com's VerdictSearch affiliate scoured the nation's court records in search of the biggest verdicts of 2024, also consulting with practitioners and reviewing reports by other ALM Media publications. The amounts listed here represent jury awards – they don't account for judicial reductions, offsets or appeals.

#### **TOP 100 VERDICTS**

A large loss doesn't have to derail a company's growth. While an organization stays focused on its business, we'll help take care of protecting it. Businesses of all sizes trust Travelers' expertise and experience to manage large-scale losses like the ones that topped the National Law Journal's Top 100 Verdicts.

# **Top Verdict Categories**

Dollar value of Top 100 verdicts by cause of action, in millions.

	2024			2023	
1	Products Liability	\$13,344	1	Products Liability	\$5,745
2	Contracts	\$6,529	2	Intentional Torts	\$3,935
3	Intellectual Property	\$5,180	3	Intellectual Property	\$2,970
4	Antitrust	\$4,810	4	Motor Vehicle	\$2,128
5	Intentional Torts	\$3,538	5	Antitrust	\$2,053
6	Motor Vehicle	\$2,356	6	Privacy	\$1,200
7	Medical Malpractice	\$874	7	Workplace	\$1,120
8	Employment	\$416	8	Contracts	\$1,080
9	Government	\$349	9	Medical Malpractice	\$614
10	Torts	\$338	10	Railroad	\$557
Source: VerdictSearch. Figures are rounded to the nearest \$1 million.					

#### **METHODOLOGY**

VerdictSearch strives to report as many jury verdicts, decisions and settlements as possible. Although a great many cases are submitted by attorneys, we also rely on a diligent team of assignment editors who scour docket lists, cultivate relationships with law firms, and search the Internet and news sources, including the ALM family of legal publications. Our exhaustive efforts allow us to present what we believe is a comprehensive list of the top 100 jury awards of 2024. Nevertheless, we sincerely apologize to anyone whose case may have been inadvertently omitted.

The Top 100 verdicts are ranked by gross award calculated by the jury. They do not reflect reductions for comparative negligence or assignment of fault to settling defendants or nonparties; additurs, remittiturs or reversals; or attorney fees and costs, unless awarded by the jury. In cases in which awards were automatically doubled or trebled by statute, the doubled or trebled amount determined rank. We do not consider cases in which the jury only determined per-plaintiff or per-year damages that a judge later used to calculate the gross award, cases in which the jury's instructions permitted it to determine damages against a party that it had already deemed not liable, or cases in which a jury awarded damages against one or more parties while one or more other parties awaited trial in the same matter. The editors retain sole discretion to make adjustments in rank when necessary to reflect statutes that provide for election of remedies or other types of overlapping awards.

VerdictSearch is a nationwide database of more than 210,000 verdicts and settlements. Visit VerdictSearch.com to learn how we can help you win or settle your next case.

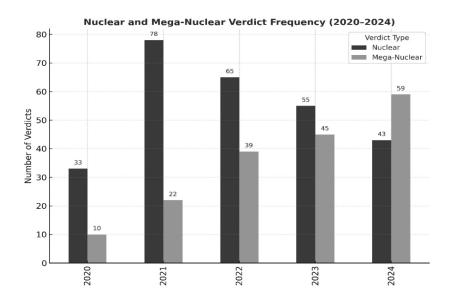
## TREND SPOTLIGHT: THE EVOLVING VERDICT LANDSCAPE

Large jury awards are no longer just high-profile headlines – they've become a persistent threat to the operational and financial stability of businesses across industries. Recent data shows that mega-nuclear verdicts (over \$100 million) are growing at a faster rate than nuclear verdicts (over \$10 million). This is a clear sign that litigation risk isn't just rising, it's reshaping what businesses must prepare for.

The chart below highlights a consistent five-year rise in the frequency of both nuclear and mega-nuclear verdicts. Nuclear verdicts have grown by 20.6% per year on average and mega-nuclear verdicts have seen a striking 61% annual growth rate. In fact, 2024 marked the first year this decade that mega-nuclear verdicts were awarded more often than nuclear verdicts. These aren't just statistical anomalies – mega-nuclear verdicts may become the new normal.

From a financial loss perspective, the average Top 100 verdict from 2020 to 2024 was more than \$800 million. Even after removing a \$301 billion outlier verdict from 2021, the average remained above \$225 million – making mega-nuclear the "average" Top 100 verdict.

## **NUCLEAR & MEGA-NUCLEAR VERDICT FREQUENCY | 2020-2024**



#### Verdict Growth by the Numbers | 2020-2024

- Mega-nuclear verdicts have increased by 61% annually.
- Nuclear verdict frequency is also rising on average, with 20.6% annual growth.
- The average Top 100 verdict (nuclear/mega-nuclear combined) was over \$800 million.
- Excluding a \$301 billion outlier verdict, the combined average was still more than \$225 million.

#### Staying Ahead of Large Verdict Risk

Several factors are fueling the frequency of large verdicts, including social inflation, changing jury attitudes, judicial reforms, plaintiff attorney tactics and third-party litigation funding. In this environment, even routine business operations could trigger a nuclear or mega-nuclear lawsuit. To stay ahead of these trends, companies should evaluate their business insurance coverage and risk strategies before a major loss occurs.

#### **FEATURED VERDICTS**

While the Top 100 Verdicts list tells part of the story, real-world examples can illustrate the risks businesses face in today's litigation climate. These stories help underscore why proactive risk management is more critical than ever.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE/WORKPLACE NEGLIGENCE

# Truck company did not do background check on driver

TYPE: Verdict-Plaintiff
AMOUNT: \$141,549,000.00

**STATE:** Florida

VENUE: Nassau County

COURT: Nassau County Circuit Court, 4th, FL

INJURY TYPE(S): eye - nystagmus

back - lower back; upper back; fracture, back; fracture, T2; anterolisthesis; fracture, vertebra; fracture, T2; herniated disc, lumbar; herniated disc at L3-4; herniated disc, lumbar; herniated disc at L4-5; herniated disc, lumbar; herniated disc at L5-S1

head

neck - anterolisthesis; herniated disc, cervical;

herniated disc at C5-6

brain - traumatic brain injury

other - thumb; atrophy; bursitis; kyphoplasty; soft tissue; physical therapy; sacroiliac joint; steroid injection; epidural injections; lumbar facet injury; compression fracture; trigger point injection; aggravation of preexisting condition

shoulder - derangement, shoulder

epidermis - numbness
hand/finger - finger

neurological - radiculopathy; nerve damage/neu-

ropathy; neurological impairment sensory/speech - vestibular deficits mental/psychological - depression

CASE TYPE: Motor Vehicle - Truck; Speeding; Passenger; Rear-

ender; Multiple Impact; Tractor-Trailer; Multiple

Vehicle; Negligent Entrustment Transportation - Trucking

Worker/Workplace Negligence - Negligent Hiring;

Negligent Training; Negligent Supervision

**CASE NAME:** Michael Miller, Angel Rodriguez-Santiago;

and Marilyn Rodriguez-Santiago Individually and as Natural Guardian on Behalf of Yadielis Lopez, a Minor v. Ellis Eugene Trollinger;

K&N Logging LLC; and Candi Legree, No.

20CA000182AXYX

**DATE:** Nov. 6, 2024

**PLAINTIFF(S):** All Plaintiffs, (, 0 Years)

Michael Miller, (Male, 62 Years) Yadielis Lopez, (Female, 5 Years)

Angel Rodriguez-Santiago, (Male, 26 Years)

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY(S):

Curry Pajcic; Pajcic & Pajcic Law Firm; Jacksonville FL for Michael Miller, Angel

Rodriguez-Santiago, Yadielis Lopez

Paul Shorstein; Pajcic & Pajcic Law Firm; Jacksonville FL for Michael Miller, Angel Rodriguez-Santiago, Yadielis Lopez Janeen Mira; Pajcic & Pajcic Law Firm; Jacksonville FL for Michael Miller, Angel Rodriguez-Santiago, Yadielis Lopez

PLAINTIFF EXPERT(S):

Eli Loch D.O.; Pain Management; Ponte Vedra

Beach, FL called by: Paul Shorstein

Syed Asad M.D.; Neurology; Jacksonville, FL

called by: Janeen Mira

Brian G. Pfeifer Ph.D., P.E.; Accident

Reconstruction; Tallahassee, FL called by: Curry

Pajcio

Craig Lichtblau M.D.; Life Care Planning; North

Palm Beach, FL called by: Janeen Mira

David Dorrity; Trucking Industry; Greenville, SC

called by: Curry Pajcic

Darren Buono M.D.; Radiology; Tampa, FL called

by: Janeen Mira

Hector C. Pagan M.D.; Pain Management; Jacksonville Beach, FL called by: Curry Pajcic,

Janeen Mira

Javier Garcia-Bengochea; Neurosurgery; Jacksonville, FL called by: Curry Pajcic

Bernard Guiot M.D.; Neurosurgery; St. Augustine,

FL called by: Curry Pajcic

Shannon Beardsley M.D.; Radiology; Jacksonville,

FL called by: Paul Shorstein

**DEFENDANT(S):** Candi Legree

K&N Logging LLC Ellis Eugene Trollinger

**DEFENSE** 

**ATTORNEY(S):** John M. Howell; Fernandez Trial Lawyers, P.A.;

Jacksonville, FL for Ellis Eugene Trollinger, K&N

Logging LLC, Candi Legree

Gerrard Molenaar; Fernandez Trial Lawyers, P.A.; Jacksonville, FL for Ellis Eugene Trollinger, K&N

Logging LLC, Candi Legree

**DEFENDANT** 

**EXPERT(S):** Brian E. Woodruff M.D.; Pediatric Neurology;

East Grand Rapids, MI called by: for John M.

Howell, Gerrard Molenaar

Aashim Bhatia M.D.; Neuroradiology;
Philadelphia, PA called by: for John M. Howell,
Gerrard Molenaar
Andrew S. Johnson M.D.; Orthopedic Surgery;
Jacksonville, FL called by: for John M. Howell,
Gerrard Molenaar
Steven Bailey M.D.; Neurosurgery; Gainesville, FL
called by: John M. Howell, Gerrard Molenaar
Stephen L. Nelson Jr. M.D., Ph.D.; Pediatric
Neurology; New Orleans, LA called by: for John
M. Howell, Gerrard Molenaar

**INSURERS:** National Indemnity Co.

**FACTS:** On March 3, 2020, plaintiff Angel Rodriguez-Santiago, 26, a mechanic and tree trimmer, was driving a car on State Road 200, near its intersection with Old Nassauville Road in Fernandina Beach. His niece, plaintiff Yadielis Lopez, 5, was sitting in the backseat. Plaintiff Michael Miller, 62, retired, was operating a sports car directly in front of Rodriguez-Santiago's vehicle. Both Miller and Rodriguez-Santiago stopped for traffic ahead.

Ellis Trollinger, an employee of K&N Logging, was operating a logging truck behind Rodriguez-Santiago's car. Trollinger, who was traveling 67 mph in a 45-mph zone, failed to stop for traffic and struck the rear of Rodriguez-Santiago's vehicle. The impact pushed Rodriguez-Santiago's car into the back of the sports car, which then hit the vehicle in front of Miller.

Rodriguez-Santiago claimed neck, back and shoulder injuries. His niece claimed head and neck injuries, and Miller claimed neck and back injuries.

Rodriguez-Santiago, Yadielis and Miller all sued Trollinger, K&N Logging and the company's president, Candi Legree. The lawsuit alleged that Trollinger was negligent in the operation of his vehicle. The lawsuit also included claims against Legree and K&N Trucking for negligent hiring, training, supervision and entrustment.

Plaintiffs' accident reconstruction expert opined that if Trollinger had been paying attention to the roadway, then he would have had 11 seconds to perceive and react to the line of vehicles ahead of him. However, Trollinger did not hit his brakes until less than a second before the impact, plaintiffs' counsel contended.

At the time of trial, it was unclear why Trollinger had delayed applying his brakes. It was also unclear if he had been distracted or under the influence of drugs when the crash occurred.

For the claims against Legree and the logging company, plaintiffs' counsel noted that Trollinger had a lengthy criminal history. Trollinger had previously been arrested for speeding in a commercial vehicle, battery on a law enforcement officer, driving under the influence, careless driving, resisting arrest and numerous other charges. The arrests all took place before Legree hired him.

Plaintiffs' counsel argued that Legree never checked Trollinger's driving or arrest history before hiring him. Per plaintiffs' counsel, Legree also admitted that she was unfamiliar with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

The defense ultimately admitted that Trollinger was negligent in his operation of the truck and that the other defendants were negligent in their hiring, training, supervision and entrustment. However, plaintiffs' counsel noted at trial that the defendants had initially blamed the plaintiffs for the accident when responding to the lawsuit.

While liability was admitted, the jury was asked to apportion fault between Legree and Trollinger. Plaintiffs' counsel suggested an even liability split between the two individual defendants.

Despite conceding liability, defense counsel did cross-examine the plaintiff's trucking expert. The defense disputed whether Trollinger was as poor of a hire as plaintiffs' counsel claimed he was.

**INJURY:** Yadielis' mother came to the scene and took both her daughter and Rodriguez-Santiago to the hospital. The two plaintiffs were treated and released.

Rodriguez-Santiago claimed a C5-6 herniation that caused radiculopathy and C6 nerve damage. He also claimed facet and sacroiliac joint injuries along with L3-4, L4-5 and L5-S1 herniations. Rodriguez-Santiago was additionally diagnosed with bursitis and derangement of his right, dominant shoulder.

Rodriguez-Santiago received extensive physical therapy and 134 spinal injections, including trigger point, epidural steroid and facet injections.

Rodriguez-Santiago claimed that he needed at least one cervical fusion in the future. He said he also required invasive pain management care, MRIs and additional physical therapy. He claimed that the C6 nerve damage caused numbness in his right thumb and atrophy in his right biceps. As a result, he experienced weakness and a significant loss of grip strength in his right hand. Rodriguez-Santiago said that he frequently dropped items and at one point even dropped his young child.

Rodriguez-Santiago sought recovery of past and future medical expenses and damages for his past and future pain and suffering.

Yadielis alleged a mild traumatic brain injury and cervical anterolisthesis. She said her head injury affected her balance and caused nystagmus.

Yadielis underwent neurological testing, MRIs, physical therapy and balance therapy. Plaintiffs' counsel claimed Yadielis would need additional therapies and tests in the future along with platelet-rich plasma injections.

Yadielis said she had ongoing neck pain and experienced frequent falls. She claimed she had to be more careful when playing sports.

Yadielis sought recovery of past and future medical expenses and damages for her past and future pain and suffering.

Miller also went to the hospital from the scene. He claimed a T2 compression fracture, soft tissue injuries to his neck and upper back and an aggravation of preexisting lower back pain.

While Miller needed a T2 kyphoplasty, he was unable to schedule the procedure immediately due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the next several weeks, he said he had to live with the fear that one wrong step could leave him paralyzed. He ultimately had the surgery in April 2020 and avoided any paralysis.

Following the kyphoplasty, Miller underwent pain management treatment that was ongoing at the time of trial. He also received physical therapy and a few injections. While he started taking pain medications prior to the accident, he said the crash forced him to increase his dosage by about 80%. Miller said he needed additional injections, medications, therapies and MRIs in the future.

Miller claimed he experienced chronic depression after the crash and became more isolated from his friends. Miller said he was recommended for psychotherapy but did not undergo this treatment regularly.

Miller testified that he used to be an avid motorcycle rider but rarely rode his motorcycle after the crash. He said his injuries also limited his ability to care for his home and his elderly mother. Miller further stated that he was unable to travel to Michigan to visit his children.

Miller sought recovery of future medical expenses and damages for his past and future pain and suffering. All three plaintiffs also sought punitive damages against K&N Logging.

After the close of evidence, the court issued a directed verdict on permanency for Miller and Rodriguez-Santiago. The jury was asked to determine whether Yadielis had a permanent injury.

Defendants denied causing any permanent injuries to the plaintiffs. Defense counsel maintained that Rodriguez-Santiago and Yadielis only sustained temporary injuries that resolved. The defense further contended that Miller's injuries stemmed from his advanced age.

Defense counsel suggested a jury award of around \$30,000 for Yadielis and around \$100,000 for each of the adult plaintiffs.

**RESULT:** The jury determined that Trollinger and Legree were each 50% liable for the accident. The jury also concluded that Yadielis sustained a permanent injury. The jury awarded the plaintiffs a combined \$141,549,000, including \$125 million in punitive damages.

The jury further concluded that K&N Logging's conduct was motivated solely by unreasonable financial gain and that the unreasonably dangerous nature of the conduct was known by K&N Logging's management.

All Plaintiffs \$125,000,000 Punitive Damages Against K&N Logging \$125,000,000 Plaintiff's Total Award Yadielis Lopez \$53,000 Past Medical Costs \$5,000,000 Future Pain and Suffering \$1,000,000 Past Pain and Suffering \$60,000 Future Medical Expenses Before Turning 18 \$60,000 Future Medical Expenses After Turning 18 \$6,173,000 Plaintiff's Total Award

Angel Rodriguez-Santiago \$76,000 Past Medical Costs \$650,000 Future Medical Costs \$5,000,000 Future Pain and Suffering \$3,000,000 Past Pain and Suffering \$8,726,000 Plaintiff's Total Award

Michael Miller \$150,000 Future Medical Costs \$1,000,000 Future Pain and Suffering \$500,000 Past Pain and Suffering \$1,650,000 Plaintiff's Total Award

#### **TRIAL INFORMATION:**

JUDGE: Marianne L. Aho
DEMAND: None reported
OFFER: \$500,000
TRIAL LENGTH: 3 weeks
TRIAL DELIBERATIONS: 2.25 hours
JURY VOTE: 6-0

**JURY COMPOSITION:** 3 male, 3 female; 6 white

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiffs' counsel. Additional information was gleaned from court documents. Defense counsel did not respond to the reporter's phone calls.

#### **WORKPLACE NEGLIGENCE/MOTOR VEHICLE**

# Company knew employee had drinking problem; granted vehicle access

TYPE: Verdict-Plaintiff

AMOUNT: \$83,803,500.00

STATE: California

**VENUE:** San Bernardino County

**COURT:** Superior Court of San Bernardino County, San

Bernardino, CA

**INJURY** 

**TYPE(S):** arm - fracture, arm; fracture, radius

hip - fracture, hip; fracture, acetabulum

leg - fracture, leg; fracture, femur; fracture, leg;

fracture, tibia

head

*knee* - fracture, patella *brain* - traumatic brain injury

chest - fracture, sternum

other - arthroplasty; closed reduction; pins/rods/ screws; hardware implanted; comminuted fracture

facelnose - face; fracture, facial bone

foot/heel - foot; fracture, foot; fracture, metatarsal; fracture, foot; fracture, subtalar joint; fracture,

heel/calcaneus; fracture, calcaneus/heel

neurological - neurological impairment; neuroma surgeries/treatment - open reduction; internal fixation

mental/psychological - emotional distress

**CASE TYPE:** Motor Vehicle - Multiple Vehicle; Alcohol

Involvement; Negligent Entrustment

Worker/Workplace Negligence - Negligent Hiring

**CASE NAME:** Jaime Rodriguez and Ana Lidia Gomez v. The

Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc. and Jonathan Armando Gonzalez-Varillas, No.

CIVDS2003809

**DATE:** July 16, 2024

PLAINTIFF(S): Ana Lidia Gomez, (Female, 52 Years)

Jaime Rodriguez, (Male, 55 Years)

**PLAINTIFF** 

ATTORNEY(S): Trevor M. Quirk; Quirk Law Firm LLP; Ventura

CA for Jaime Rodriguez, Ana Lidia Gomez Iman Jaffrey; Jaffrey Law, APC; Burbank CA for

Jaime Rodriguez, Ana Lidia Gomez

Leonidas G. Nicol; Quirk Law Firm LLP; Ventura

CA for Jaime Rodriguez, Ana Lidia Gomez

PLAINTIFF

**EXPERT(S):** Amy Magnusson M.D.; Physical Medicine; San

Diego, CA called by: Trevor M. Quirk, Iman

Jaffrey, Leonidas G. Nicol

Barry I. Ludwig M.D.; Neurology; Santa Monica, CA called by: Trevor M. Quirk, Iman Jaffrey,

Leonidas G. Nicol

Carol C. Frey M.D.; Orthopedic Surgery; Manhattan Beach, CA called by: Trevor M. Quirk, Iman

Jaffrey, Leonidas G. Nicol

Carol Hyland C.L.C.P.; Life Care Planning; Lafayette, CA called by: Trevor M. Quirk, Iman Jaffrey,

Leonidas G. Nicol

Keith S. Feder M.D.; Orthopedic Surgery; Manhattan Beach, CA called by: Trevor M. Quirk, Iman

Jaffrey, Leonidas G. Nicol

Leslie A. Smart; Truck Fleet Operations; Bixby, OK called by: Trevor M. Quirk, Iman Jaffrey, Leonidas

G. Nicol

Bennett Williamson Ph.D.; Psychology/Counseling; Los Angeles, CA called by: Trevor M. Quirk, Iman

Jaffrey, Leonidas G. Nicol

**DEFENDANT(S):** Jonathan Armando Gonzalez-Varillas

The Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc.

**DEFENSE** 

ATTORNEY(S): Kennett L. Patrick; Winet Patrick Gayer Creighton

& Hanes; Vista, CA for Jonathan Armando

Gonzalez-Varillas

Richard E. Morton; Haight Brown & Bonesteel LLP; Irvine, CA for The Original Mowbray's Tree

Service Inc.

DEFENDANT

**EXPERT(S):** Amy Sutton Ph.D., C.L.C.P.; Life Care Planning;

Long Beach, CA called by: for

Dean C. Delis Ph.D.; Neuropsychology; San Diego,

CA called by: for

Sten E. Kramer M.D.; Physical Medicine; Newport

Beach, CA called by: for

James E. Rosenberg M.D.; Neuropsychiatry; Wood-

land Hills, CA called by: for

Stuart M. Gold M.D.; Orthopedic Surgery; Tor-

rance, CA called by: for

Stephanie Rizzardi M.B.A.; Economics; Pasadena,

CA called by: for

**FACTS:** On Dec. 14, 2019, plaintiff Jaime Rodriguez, 55, a self-employed ice cream truck driver and mechanic, was driving his minivan on U.S. Route 66 in San Bernardino with his wife, plaintiff Ana Gomez, 52, a homemaker, who was a front seat passenger in the vehicle. As they traveled in the westbound lane, the front left of their vehicle was struck by a pickup truck, driven by Jonathan Armando Gonzalez-Varillas. Prior to this, Varillas was traveling east on Route 66. Rodriguez sustained injuries to his head, arm, leg and foot, while Gomez sustained injuries to her chest.

Rodriguez and Gomez sued Varillas, as well as Varillas' employer and owner of the pickup truck, The Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc. They alleged that Varillas was negligent in the operation of the pickup truck. Additionally, Rodriguez and Gomez alleged negligent entrustment and negligent hiring against The Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc.

Plaintiffs' counsel contended that on the day of the incident, Varillas drove to several bars, became intoxicated and negligently drove while under the influence. Plaintiffs' counsel further argued that it was due to Varillas' intoxication that he lost control of his truck and crossed a double yellow line, and collided with the plaintiffs' minivan.

At the scene of the accident, Varillas had a company gas card in his wallet. Plaintiffs' counsel contended that the company, its area managers and general foremen knew that Varillas lacked a valid driver's license and had a drinking problem and that even the day after he was hired, Varillas was reprimanded for drinking and breaking bottles in a hotel room paid for by the company and the hotel then prohibited the company from being allowed to rent any rooms there due to the broken beer bottles.

Plaintiffs' counsel maintained that less than a month later, general foremen began giving Varillas the keys to various company vehicles, allowing him to commute between his home in San Bernardino and work in Thousand Oaks. Weekly inventory sheets showed the company assigned Varillas to drive the pickup truck he was operating on the day of the crash. Varillas admitted liability for the collision; however, his employer denied any liability. The business alleged that Varillas had stolen the pickup truck and drove it on the weekend without authorization.

**INJURY:** Rodriguez and Gomez were taken to the hospital following the December 2019 collision. Rodriguez sustained a traumatic brain injury, multiple facial fractures, fracture of the left radial shaft, fracture of the left acetabulum, a comminuted fracture of the left tibia, a comminuted fracture of the right femur, a fracture of the right patella and multiple fractures of the right foot, including to his calcaneus and his metatarsals. He claimed to have suffered from adjustment disorder and major depressive disorder following the accident.

At the ER, he had a Glasgow Coma Scale score of 7, indicating he had a traumatic brain injury.

For treatment, on Dec. 15, 2019, he underwent significant irrigation and debridement of his wounds, a right knee patellectomy and intramedullary nailing of the right closed femur fracture.

On Dec. 16, 2019, he underwent an intramedullary nailing of the left tibia and an open reduction internal fixation of the left posterior wall acetabulum fracture with hardware installed. On Dec. 18, 2019, he underwent a closed reduction and pinning of the right calcaneus fracture, right third and fourth metatarsal foot shaft fractures and a closed reduction and splint immobilization of the right second and fifth metatarsal foot shaft fractures.

On Dec. 26, 2019, he also underwent an open reduction internal fixation of the left radial shaft fracture and a closed reduction and splinting of the left distal radioulnar joint injury.

On Nov. 11, 2021, he had surgery to repair and reshape damaged cartilage in his right knee.

On Jan. 10, 2022, Rodriguez had surgery to fix the second, third and fourth toes on his right foot, which would not extend, and he also had two screws removed from his calcaneus, as well as a neuroma that was removed.

On April 28, 2022, he had surgery to repair and reshape damaged cartilage in his left knee and also remove hardware from the left tibia.

On Dec. 5, 2022, he had a right foot arthroplasty to release and straighten the third toe on his right foot. In the future, he claims he will need to have hardware for the left forearm and wrist arthroscopy removed, that he will require right knee injections, an arthroscopy of the right and left knee, a right knee and left hip replacements, both, in seven to 10 years, and a subtalar joint fusion of the right ankle. Rodriguez was self-employed. He had to sell his ice cream trucks following the subject accident to pay rent. He returned to work fixing vehicles in his front yard to pay bills. Rodriguez sought recovery for his past and future medical costs and his past and future pain and suffering.

Gomez sustained a fractured sternum, as well as a retrosternal hematoma, as blood collected behind the sternum after the fracture. She also claimed nausea and vomiting and chest and rib pain, as well as difficulty breathing. Gomez claimed emotional distress from the event. Gomez took care of Rodriguez after the accident at home. Gomez sought recovery for her past and future pain and suffering only.

Rodriguez and Gomez also sought recovery for their minivan and punitive damages against the company for its alleged conduct. **RESULT:** The jury found that Varillas was negligent, incompetent and unfit to drive and that these were substantial factors in causing harm to Rodriguez and Gomez.

The jury additionally found The Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc. owned the vehicle Varillas was operating, knew or should have known that Varillas did not have a license, was incompetent and unfit to drive and knowingly permitted Varillas to drive anyway and that these were also substantial factors in causing harm to the plaintiffs.

The jury also found that The Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc. had been negligent in the hiring, supervision and retention of Varillas and that this was too a substantial factor in causing harm to Rodriguez and Gomez.

The jury awarded Rodriguez \$32,303,500 and Gomez \$2.5 million. The jury assigned 25% of both Rodriguez's and Gomez's harm to Varillas and 75% to The Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc.

The jury found that Varillas and The Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc. both acted with malice or oppression. The jury awarded the plaintiffs \$49 million in punitive damages against The Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc. only. Rodriguez and Gomez's total verdict was \$83,803,500.

Ana Gomez
\$1,500,000 Future Pain and Suffering
\$1,000,000 Past Pain and Suffering
\$2,500,000 Plaintiff's Total Award
Jaime Rodriguez
\$900,000 Past Medical Costs
\$1,400,000 Future Medical Costs
\$10,000,000 Future Pain and Suffering
\$20,000,000 Past Pain and Suffering
\$3,500 Property Damages
\$32,303,500 Plaintiff's Total Award

#### **TRIAL INFORMATION:**

**JUDGE:** Donald R. Alvarez

**DEMAND:** \$69 million and five logging skidders, with clear

title, check and skidders delivered to Quirk Law

Firm CA office

OFFER: \$1.5 million
TRIAL LENGTH: 2 months

TRIAL

**DELIBERATIONS:** 0

**JURY VOTE:** 12-0 (liability), 9-3 (damages)

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiffs' counsel and defense counsel for Varillas. Defense counsel for The Original Mowbray's Tree Service Inc. did not respond to the reporter's phone calls.

## TRANSPORTATION/WRONGFUL DEATH/MOTOR VEHICLE

# Spotter's death result of truck driver's negligence

 TYPE:
 Verdict-Plaintiff

 AMOUNT:
 \$58,286,093.00

 ACTUAL AWARD:
 \$55,371,788.40

STATE: California
VENUE: Fresno County

**COURT:** Superior Court of Fresno County, Fresno, CA

INJURY

**TYPE(S):** other - death; crush injury; multiple trauma

**CASE TYPE:** Transportation - Trucking

Motor Vehicle - Pedestrian; Tractor-Trailer Wrongful Death - Survival Damages

**CASE NAME:** Gurpreet Kaur and Veer Singh Ghotra, by and

through his Guardian ad Litem, Bikramjit Singh Sohal v. Gurdeep Singh dba Suni Transport and

Pritpal Singh, No. 19CECG04142

**DATE:** Dec. 11, 2024

**PLAINTIFF(S):** Gurpreet Kaur, (Female, 25 Years)

Veer Singh Ghotra, (Male, 1 Years) Bikramjit Singh Sohal, (Male, 0 Years)

Estate of Gurdeep Singh Ghotra, (Male, 30 Years)

**PLAINTIFF** 

ATTORNEY(S): Minh T. Nguyen; Nguyen Lawyers, ALC; Long Beach

CA for Gurpreet Kaur, Veer Singh Ghotra, Bikramjit

Singh Sohal, Estate of Gurdeep Singh Ghotra

PLAINTIFF

**EXPERT(S):** V. Paul Herbert C.P.S.A.; Truck Industry Policy &

Procedures; Quincy, CA called by:

Minh T. Nguyen

James A. Mills M.A.; Economics; Los Altos, CA

called by: Minh T. Nguyen

**DEFENDANT(S):** Pritpal Singh

Gurdeep Singh Ghotra

**DEFENSE** 

ATTORNEY(S): Samuel L. Phillips; Borton Petrini LLP; San Jose,

CA for Pritpal Singh

Gregory S. Mason; McCormick Barstow LLP;

Fresno, CA for Gurdeep Singh Ghotra

**DEFENDANT** 

**EXPERT(S):** Bill Fouche; Trucking Industry; Canon City, CO

called by: for Samuel L. Phillips, Gregory S. Mason

Nora C. Ostrofe M.B.A.; Economics;

San Francisco, CA called by: for Samuel L. Phillips,

Gregory S. Mason

**FACTS:** On Feb. 26, 2018, plaintiffs' decedent, Gurdeep Singh Ghotra, 30, who previously worked as a delivery driver for online food delivery companies, accompanied Pritpal Singh, a tractor-trailer driver who was employed by Suni Transport based out of Fresno. Prior to this, Ghotra had recently obtained his commercial driver's license and was considering a career in interstate trucking and was on this ride-along to observe a career in long-haul trucking.

Ghotra and Pritpal were on their way to a warehouse in Zanesville, Ohio. On one side of the warehouse, there were seven docks. Each dock was clearly marked with a number, and designated by double yellow lines on each side that led to a large rollup door. Each dock was about five feet above the ground, with a metal plate flushed against the side of the dock from the ground to the top of the dock to prevent the concrete from chipping when trailers were backed into the dock.

Protruding out of each side of the dock were dock bumpers, which were designed to receive the trailers and let the driver know when the trailer was against the dock; the driver would feel the trailer hitting the bumpers.

The dock bumpers were made of rubber and protruded about a foot from the edge of the dock toward the trailer. It was standard for truck drivers to hit the dock bumpers when backing up their trailers.

On this particular day, Pritpal experienced difficulties backing his trailer into the loading dock. After multiple attempts, Pritpal asked Ghotra to assist him by spotting him. Ultimately, surveillance footage showed that after opening the trailer doors, Ghotra was crushed to death when Pritpal backed the trailer into the dock.

Plaintiffs, Gurdeep Ghotra's wife, Gurpreet Kaur, and his minor son, Veer Singh Ghotra, sued Pritpal and Gurdeep Singh Ghotra, owner of Suni Transport, alleging negligence. The decedent and the company owner share the same name, Gurdeep Singh Ghotra, but are not the same individual.

Though the accident took place in Ohio, the case was filed in Fresno because this was the venue where the trucking company was domiciled. Plaintiffs' counsel contended that Pritpal, who had a commercial license for about a year, was inexperienced. Specifically, even though all but one of the other docks were empty, plaintiffs' counsel argued that a qualified driver would have had no issue backing a trailer into the dock; however, it took Pritpal multiple attempts.

Pritpal, who initially dropped off Gurdeep Ghotra so he could use a restroom, called on Gurdeep Ghotra to help spot him. On Pritpal's fifth attempt, he stopped the trailer about 10 feet short of the dock in order for Gurdeep Ghotra to open the trailer doors. The surveillance video showed Gurdeep Ghotra opening the right door and attaching the door to the side of the tractor.

The video then skips for one minute and nine seconds when the video next shows that the trailer was then flushed against the dock. During this minute, Pritpal backed up the trailer and crushed Gurdeep Ghotra. Plaintiffs' counsel noted that Pritpal testified that he felt a bump and believed he had hit the bumpers when in reality, he had struck Gurdeep Ghotra. Upon feeling the bump, Pritpal punched the gas pedal and left tire threads, as the back wheels of the trailer spun while the truck remained in place. Plaintiffs' counsel noted Pritpal's statements to authorities, in which he claimed to have responded within minutes of the incident, though video evidence showed that he sat in his truck for more than 20 minutes before inspecting the area and discovering Gurdeep Ghotra.

Plaintiffs' counsel contended Pritpal was negligent because he backed up his truck without knowing where Gurdeep Ghotra was. Counsel contended Pritpal knew, or should have known, that Gurdeep Ghotra was behind his truck, because he last saw Gurdeep Ghotra standing back there, opening one of the trailer doors.

Plaintiffs' counsel maintained that as a trucking rule, a truck driver is not supposed to back up a truck if he or she cannot see his or her spotter. The shorthand for this rule of thumb is cited as, "If you don't know, you don't go."

At trial, both defendants argued for comparative negligence.

Suni Transport admitted liability but contended that Gurdeep Ghotra bore 50% of the responsibility for standing in a dangerous position near the trailer, the "pinch point," or a location where two parts can come together, potentially trapping a body part and causing injury. Their counsel contended that Gurdeep Ghotra obtained his commercial license and thus should have been aware of this potential hazard.

Pritpal's counsel argued that Gurdeep Ghotra bore 100% of responsibility for his death, because he knew that Pritpal was backing up the trailer and that after opening the trailer doors, Gurdeep Ghotra should not have stood in the back of the trailer where he could not be seen.

**INJURY:** Gurdeep Ghotra died from crush injuries. He was an immigrant from India who left his family when his son was 13 days old to find work in the United States. In India, he worked as a farmer seven days a week, and his plans were to make money, establish roots in the U.S. and then bring his family over. He worked as a delivery driver for Postmates and DoorDash and made about \$60,000 in 2017, the full year before his death.

Plaintiffs his wife, Gurpreet Kaur, and his minor son, Veer Singh Ghotra, sought recovery for wrongful death damages, loss of love, comfort, care, society, solace, companionship, his past lost earnings, as well as loss of household services for Gurpreet. At trial, defendants argued that \$1 million for Gurdeep Ghotra's wife and \$1 million for his son was adequate compensation for non-economic damages.

**RESULT:** The jury found that Suni Transport and Pritpal were 95% negligent and that the decedent, Gurdeep Ghotra, was 5% comparatively negligent. The jury awarded Gurdeep Ghotra's wife and son \$58,286,093. After apportionment, their award will be \$55,371,788.40.

Estate of Gurdeep Ghotra

Bikramjit Sohal Veer Ghotra Gurpreet Kaur

#### **TRIAL INFORMATION:**

JUDGE: Kristi Culver Kapetan

TRIAL LENGTH: 6 days

**DELIBERATIONS:** 1 day

**JURY VOTE:** 12-0 (liability), 10-2 (damages)

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiffs' counsel. Defense counsel did not respond to the reporter's phone calls.

#### **MOTOR VEHICLE**

# Plaintiff had dual amputation after being struck by 18-wheeler

TYPE: Verdict-Plaintiff

AMOUNT: \$55,000,000.13

STATE: New Jersey

VENUE: Essex County

**COURT:** Superior Court of Essex County, NJ

INJURY

**TYPE(S):** *leg* - scar and/or disfigurement, leg

other - necrosis; prosthesis; physical therapy amputation - leg; leg (above the knee) surgeries/treatment - debridement mental/psychological - emotional distress

**CASE TYPE:** *Motor Vehicle* - Speeding; Pedestrian; Single

Vehicle; Tractor-Trailer

**CASE NAME:** Angel May Rider v. Jersey City Transfer Inc. and

Paul DePass, No. ESX-L-002221-19

**DATE:** April 11, 2024

**PLAINTIFF(S):** Angel Rider, (Female, 22 Years)

PLAINTIFF

ATTORNEY(S): Emeka Igwe; The Igwe Law Firm; Philadelphia PA

for Angel Rider

Kevin O'Brien; Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Hol-

loway; Cheltenham PA for Angel Rider

Kristin Buddle; Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Hol-

loway; Cheltenham PA for Angel Rider

Tyler Stampone; Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Holloway; Cheltenham PA for Angel Rider

PLAINTIFF EXPERT(S):

Guy W. Fried M.D.; Physical Rehabilitation; Philadelphia, PA called by: Emeka Igwe, Kevin O'Brien, Kristin Buddle, Tyler Stampone Alex Karras O.T.R.; Life Care Planning; Philadelphia, PA called by: Emeka Igwe, Kevin O'Brien, Kristin Buddle, Tyler Stampone

John Schulte; Prosthetics; Baltimore, MD called by: Emeka Igwe, Kevin O'Brien, Kristin Buddle, Tyler Stampone

Andrew Verzilli Ph.D.; Economics; Lansdale, PA called by: Emeka Igwe, Kevin O'Brien, Kristin Buddle, Tyler Stampone

Steven H. Gumerman Ph.D.; Vocational Assessment; Huntingdon Valley, PA called by: Emeka Igwe, Kevin O'Brien, Kristin Buddle, Tyler Stampone Stephen R. Benanti; Accident Reconstruction; Groveland, MA called by: Emeka Igwe, Kevin O'Brien, Kristin Buddle, Tyler Stampone Nicholas F. Quercetti III D.O.; Orthopedic Trauma;

Wilmington, DE called by: Emeka Igwe, Kevin

O'Brien, Kristin Buddle

**DEFENDANT(S):** Estate of Paul DePass

Alert Motor Freight Inc. Jersey City Transfer Inc.

Haier US Appliance Solutions Inc.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY(S):

Thomas A. Martin; Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC; Newark, NJ for Jersey City Transfer Inc., Alert Motor Freight Inc., Estate of Paul DePass

Charles Gayner; Ehrlich | Gayner LLP; New York, NY for Jersey City Transfer Inc., Alert Motor Freight Inc., Estate of Paul DePass

**DEFENDANT** 

**EXPERT(S):** Nicholas Bellizzi; Accident Reconstruction;

Holmdel, NJ called by: for Thomas A. Martin,

Charles Gayner,

**INSURERS:** Prime Insurance Co.

**FACTS:** On Dec. 21, 2018, plaintiff Angel May Rider, 22, a barista, was driving south on Interstate 95 in Maryland when she struck a disabled vehicle that was stopped in her lane of travel. A short time earlier, another two-vehicle crash took place at the same location, with one of the vehicles leaving the scene. Rider, assisted by the driver of the car she hit, exited her vehicle and stood on the shoulder of the road, next to the guardrail. While she was talking to a 911 operator, an 18-wheeler driven by Paul DePass came on the scene, could not stop in time and jackknifed on the wet pavement, striking Rider. Rider's legs were severed when the truck pinned her against the guardrail.

Rider sued DePass and his employers, Jersey City Transfer Inc. and Alert Motor Freight Inc. Rider alleged that DePass was negligent in the operation of a vehicle, and his employers were vicariously liable. She later sued Haier US Appliance Solutions Inc., which had a contract with Jersey City Transfer and Alert Motor Freight; the claim against Haier was dismissed prior to trial. DePass died during the course of litigation.

It was raining at the time of the accident. Rider's expert in accident reconstruction testified that DePass was traveling too fast for the conditions, in violation of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and the Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Manual, which requires a one-third speed reduction in rainy conditions. Had DePass been paying attention and driving at an appropriate speed, he would have been able to avoid the accident, the expert concluded.

The defense maintained that Rider was comparatively negligent because she stood on the side of the guardrail closer to the roadway, rather than climbing over to the other side.

The defense's expert in accident reconstruction opined that the plaintiff was traveling at a reasonable speed. DePass should have slowed down pursuant to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and Commercial Drivers Manual.

**INJURY:** Rider was taken by ambulance to a hospital and admitted. She underwent emergency surgery in which her legs were amputated above her knees. The plaintiff was hospitalized for approximately two months, during which time she underwent multiple revision surgeries to her legs.

Rider was ultimately transferred to inpatient rehabilitation, where she was treated with physical therapy for another month. Following her discharge home, she continued to undergo revision surgeries to repair necrotic tissue – 15 total surgeries since the accident – and she eventually was fitted with prostheses. At the time of trial, Rider continued to treat with physical therapy, receive pain management and consult with a prosthetist.

Rider's physiatrist testified that she requires lifelong care in the form of surgery, physical therapy, pain management, home care and annual prosthetics.

According to the plaintiff's expert in vocational rehabilitation, Rider's injuries and present condition have rendered her permanently disabled.

Rider testified about how her injuries radically altered her life. She can no longer work and has to rely on herself to perform her activities of daily living, since her domestic partner works throughout the day and her home is not handicap accessible. Since it is difficult to ambulate, she crawls on the floor to get around and performs therapy exercises to stay active.

Rider sought to recover stipulated medical costs of \$559,413.13, approximately \$11 million in future medical costs and roughly \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million in past and future lost earnings, plus damages for past and future pain and suffering.

**RESULT:** The jury found the defendants negligent and their negligence was a proximate cause in bringing about Rider's

harm. The jury determined that Rider was not negligent. The jury awarded Rider \$55,000,000.13.

Angel Rider

\$559,413.13 Past Medical Costs \$25,000,000 Future Medical Costs \$23,940,587 Future Pain and Suffering \$3,000,000 Past Pain and Suffering \$2,500,000 past and future lost wages \$55,000,000.13 Plaintiff's Total Award

**TRIAL INFORMATION:** 

 JUDGE:
 Thomas Vena

 DEMAND:
 \$15,000,000

 OFFER:
 \$1,000,000

 TRIAL LENGTH:
 6 days

 TRIAL DELIBERATIONS:
 3 hours

JURY VOTE: Yes

**JURY COMPOSITION:** 2 Female, 6 Male

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiff's and defense counsel. Additional information was gleaned from New Jersey Law Journal, an ALM publication.

## TOXIC TORTS/WORKER NEGLIGENCE/PREMISES LIABILITY

# Carbon monoxide poisoning caused by negligence

TYPE: Verdict-Plaintiff
AMOUNT: \$51,130,000.00

**STATE:** Texas

**VENUE:** Dallas County

**COURT:** Dallas County Court at Law No. 1, TX

**INJURY** 

**TYPE(S):** *brain* - brain damage

other - carbon monoxide poisoning

sensory/speech - speech/language, impairment of

mental/psychological - emotional distress

**CASE TYPE:** Toxic Torts - Carbon Monoxide

Worker/Workplace Negligence - Negligent Hiring;

**Negligent Training** 

Premises Liability - Negligent Repair and/or Main-

tenance

**CASE NAME:** TiCourtney McMullen, individually, and as next

friend of C.S.(1) (a minor), and C.S.(2) (a minor) v. Red Bird Trails Apartments, Bridgeway Capital, LLC, NCM Management LTD, Urban Custom Plumbing L.L.C. and Urban Fire Protection Inc.,

No. CC-17-00945-A

**DATE:** Aug. 13, 2024

**PLAINTIFF(S):** C. S. (One), (Female, 3 Years)

C. S. (Two), (Male, 9 Years)

TiCourtney McMullen, (Female, 0 Years) Catherine Denise Frasure, (Female, 0 Years) **PLAINTIFF** 

ATTORNEY(S): Ted B. Lyon Jr.; Ted B. Lyon & Associates; Mesquite

TX for TiCourtney McMullen, Catherine Denise

Frasure, C. S. (One), C. S. (Two)

Jason E. Payne; The Payne Firm PLLC; Houston TX for TiCourtney McMullen, Catherine Denise

Frasure, C. S. (One), C. S. (Two)

Richard A. Mann; Ted B. Lyon & Associates; Mesquite TX for TiCourtney McMullen, Catherine

Denise Frasure, C. S. (One), C. S. (Two)

Marquette W. Wolf; Ted B. Lyon & Associates; Mesquite TX for TiCourtney McMullen, Catherine

Denise Frasure, C. S. (One), C. S. (Two)

**DEFENDANT(S):** Asha Drennan

Gary D. Turner
NCM Payroll LLC
Bridgeway Capital LLC
Urban Custom Plumbing LLC
Red Bird Trails Apartments
Urban Fire Protection Inc.

BCJ Professional Mechanical Services Inc.

**DEFENSE** 

**ATTORNEY(S):** Brent D. Anderson; Taylor & Anderson LLP;

Denver, CO for Red Bird Trails Apartments,

Bridgeway Capital LLC

Asha Drennan; pro se for Urban Custom Plumbing

LLC, Asha Drennan

FACTS: In May 2015, plaintiff TiCourtney McMullen claimed she and her two minor children, a 9-month-old boy and a 3-year-old girl (plaintiffs identified in court documents each only with the initials "C.S."), suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning at Red Bird Trails Apartments in Dallas. She claimed the apartment complex owner and manager were Red Bird Trails Apartments and Bridgeway Capital LLC. The property managers hired BCJ Professional Mechanical Services Inc. or Urban Custom Plumbing LLC, or both, to repair the boiler room.

McMullen sued Red Bird Trails Apartments, Bridgeway Capital LLC (formerly known as NCM Management LTD), Urban Custom Plumbing LLC, BCJ Professional Mechanical Services Inc., Urban Fire Protection Inc., Gary D. Turner and NCM Payroll LLC. The plumber, Asha Drennan, was also sued. McMullen alleged negligence.

Urban Fire Protection Inc. and Gary Turner were dismissed prior to going to the jury, while NCM Payroll LLC and BCJ Professional Mechanical Services Inc. were also removed from the case. As such, the parties that proceeded to the jury were Red Bird Trails Apartments, Bridgeway Capital, Urban Custom Plumbing and Drennan.

Plaintiffs' counsel contended carbon monoxide entered McMullen's apartment due to a negligent boiler repair, in which a leak caused the carbon monoxide to enter McMullen's apartment.

Plaintiffs' counsel also contended that the boiler was negligently maintained before the subject incident. Plaintiffs' counsel contended that the complex's management was negligent and failed to maintain and/or repair, as they had noticed, and they knew about rust and corrosion on the boiler's vent pipe before the subject carbon monoxide leak.

Plaintiffs' counsel contended the defendants did not warn the apartment complex residents about the maintenance work or about any carbon monoxide exposure. Plaintiffs' counsel contended the defendants failed to supervise the repair work properly or hire competent staff for the subject boiler's repairs, to have them done correctly.

Defense counsel for Red Bird Trails Apartments denied any liability and contended that while there was rust on the boiler's vent pipe that eventually broke apart, which caused the leak, it was only on the exterior of the pipe, and not on the actual interior of the structure of the pipe, which would have caused the issue. Red Bird Trails Apartments also tried to claim that the plumber lifted the boiler up, causing the subject boiler vent's separation.

**INJURY:** McMullen and her children claimed injuries from the carbon monoxide poisoning. Her two children claimed they suffered brain injuries, which caused delays in their speech and would lead to a reduction in their life expectancy. The plaintiffs sought recovery for their emotional distress, as well as for the past and future pain and suffering and past and future medical costs for the minor children.

Defense counsel for Red Bird Trails Apartments denied that the children suffered from brain damage from carbon monoxide poisoning. Specifically, defense counsel contended that the plaintiffs showed no brain imaging that showed any injury. Instead, defense counsel

contended that the children suffered from selective mutism, which is not caused by a physical cause, such as poisoning.

**RESULT:** The jury found Red Bird Trails Apartments, Bridgeway Capital and Urban Custom Plumbing (including Drennan) were negligent. It determined that Red Bird Trials Apartments was 50% liable, Bridgeway Capital was 40% liable and Urban Custom Plumbing (including Drennan) was 10% liable. The jury determined that the plaintiffs' damages totaled \$51.13 million.

C. S. (Two)

\$20,030,000 Damages

\$20,030,000 Plaintiff's Total Award

C. S. (One)

\$20,050,000 Damages

\$20,050,000 Plaintiff's Total Award

Catherine Frasure

TiCourtney McMullen

\$11,050,000 Damages

\$11,050,000 Plaintiff's Total Award

**TRIAL INFORMATION:** 

JUDGE: D'Metria Benson

TRIAL LENGTH:
TRIAL DELIBERATIONS:

0

**POSTTRIAL:** The case settled for a confidential

amount

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiffs' counsel. Defense counsel for Red Bird Trails Apartments did not respond to the reporter's phone calls. Remaining defendants were not asked to contribute.

## TOP 100 VERDICTS OF 2024 | FULL LIST

Rank	Amount	Verdict Type
1	\$5,557,465,180	Contracts
2	\$5,230,000,000	Products Liability
3	\$4,700,000,000	Antitrust
4	\$3,090,471,832	Products Liability
5	\$2,250,000,000	Products Liability
6	\$900,000,000	Intentional Torts
7	\$847,000,000	Intellectual Property
8	\$738,000,000	Intentional Torts
9	\$725,500,000	Products Liability
10	\$604,900,000	Intellectual Property
11	\$550,000,000	Motor Vehicle
12	\$535,000,000	Intentional Torts
13	\$525,000,000	Intellectual Property
14	\$495,000,000	Products Liability
15	\$462,000,000	Motor Vehicle
16	\$452,000,000	Intellectual Property

Rank	Amount	Verdict Type
17	\$445,000,000	Intellectual Property
18	\$412,005,149	Medical Malpractice
19	\$360,000,000	Intentional Torts
20	\$330,000,000	Torts
21	\$315,715,899	Intellectual Property
22	\$310,000,000	Products Liability
23	\$292,500,000	Consumer Protection
24	\$287,846,737	Products Liability
25	\$287,000,000	Contracts
26	\$280,000,000	Contracts
27	\$274,546,735	Intentional Torts
28	\$262,388,800	Intellectual Property
29	\$260,000,000	Products Liability
30	\$242,000,000	Intellectual Property
31	\$237,600,000	Employment
32	\$210,000,000	Intentional Torts
33	\$192,136,029	Intellectual Property
34	\$164,220,539	Contracts
35	\$163,973,761	Motor Vehicle
36	\$160,000,000	Products Liability
37	\$159,000,000	Motor Vehicle
38	\$158,800,000	Railroad
39	\$151,500,000	Intellectual Property
40	\$150,005,920	Government
41	\$150,000,000	Intentional Torts
42	\$142,000,000	Intellectual Property
43	\$141,549,000	Motor Vehicle
44	\$138,780,000	Contracts
45	\$130,985,837	Products Liability
46	\$129,000,000	Motor Vehicle
47	\$121,950,000	Intellectual Property
48	\$120,654,000	Medical Malpractice
49	\$118,000,000	Intellectual Property
50	\$116,167,076	Aviation
51	\$115,222,850	Intellectual Property
52	\$110,000,000	Antitrust
53	\$108,002,192	Motor Vehicle
54	\$107,500,000	Intellectual Property
55	\$101,218,680	Contracts
56	\$100,000,000	Intentional Torts
56	\$100,000,000	Motor Vehicle
56	\$100,000,000	Medical Malpractice
56	\$100,000,000	Government
60	\$98,650,000	Government

Rank	Amount	Verdict Type
61	\$98,294,498	Employment
62	\$96,307,371	Intellectual Property
63	\$92,426,640	Insurance
64	\$91,741,370	Workplace
65	\$91,000,000	Products Liability
66	\$90,000,000	Railroad
67	\$83,803,500	Motor Vehicle
68	\$83,300,000	Intentional Torts
69	\$82,709,239	Motor Vehicle
70	\$80,252,412	Employment
71	\$79,850,000	Motor Vehicle
72	\$78,000,000	Products Liability
73	\$75,859,000	Medical Malpractice
74	\$75,000,000	Intentional Torts
75	\$72,500,000	Motor Vehicle
76	\$71,970,000	Intellectual Property
77	\$71,950,000	Workplace
78	\$71,489,012	Intellectual Property
79	\$68,500,000	Workplace
80	\$67,500,000	Intellectual Property
81	\$65,720,700	Intellectual Property
82	\$63,416,250	Products Liability
83	\$62,292,533	Intentional Torts
84	\$60,687,491	Motor Vehicle
85	\$60,650,000	Worker/Workplace Negligence
86	\$60,000,000	Products Liability
87	\$59,688,817	Medical Malpractice
88	\$58,358,431	Workplace
89	\$58,286,093	Motor Vehicle
90	\$57,494,719	Intellectual Property
91	\$57,082,005	Intellectual Property
92	\$56,575,000	Products Liability
93	\$56,000,001	Medical Malpractice
94	\$55,500,000	Products Liability
95	\$55,000,000	Motor Vehicle
96	\$52,437,366	Toxic Tort
97	\$51,130,000	Toxic Tort
98	\$50,306,120	Intellectual Property
99	\$50,050,000	Civil Rights
100	\$50,000,000	Intentional Torts
100	\$50,000,000	Medical Malpractice
100	\$50,000,000	Motor Vehicle



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<sup>1</sup> Travelers Agent Claim Satisfaction Study (National Accounts, Middle Market and Small Commercial), July 2025. This highlight compares the percentage of agents who place standard commercial lines who say Travelers "performs well" vs. the average across a set of six leading national carriers.