

Verdicts & Settlements Final Preview

RESULT DATE: May 18, 2011

11-JV_1304

Savanah Kirifi and Elias Aldana v. County of Los Angeles, et al. (30-2009-00120599)

Hon. Kazuharu Makino
Orange Superior

TOPIC: Personal Injury

SUB TOPIC: Auto v. Auto

FURTHER DESCRIPTION: DUI Arrest; Brain Injury

SETTLEMENT: \$4,750,000

ATTORNEY:

Plaintiff - Tina Locklear (Law Offices of Tina Locklear, Irvine); Keith Adesko (Professional Lawyers Group, Yorba Linda).

Defendant - Douglas Fee (Collins, Collins, Muir & Stewart LLP, South Pasadena).

FACTS: On June 29, 2008, at about 5:25 a.m., plaintiff Elias Moses Aldana, was the driver of the 1999 Mazda Protege, and plaintiff, Savanah Kirifi, was his passenger. Plaintiffs were proceeding eastbound on Garden Grove Boulevard at the intersection of Beach Boulevard in the city of Stanton, County of Orange, in the state of California. The defendant, Robert Andrew Moran, (a Los Angeles County Sheriff assigned to a surveillance detail in Orange County) was traveling southbound on Beach Boulevard on his way to a stakeout in his County owned SUV. Moran's car and plaintiffs' car collided.

PLAINTIFFS' CONTENTIONS: Plaintiffs alleged that defendant Moran failed to stop for the red light.

DEFENDANTS' CONTENTIONS: Defendant Moran alleged that plaintiff Aldana ran the red signal.

INJURIES: Both plaintiffs were immediately transported by ambulance to UCI medical center. Plaintiff Aldana remained in a coma for several months, with traumatic brain injuries and internal injuries which required a splenectomy, as well as fractures to the rib and pelvis, a torn left shoulder, and other soft tissue injuries. Plaintiff Kirifi was also hospitalized and suffered from a concussion, contusions, whiplash, soft tissue damage, and persistent migraines.

DAMAGES: Aldana sustained more than \$2.1 million in medical expenses. Kirifi sustained over \$35,000 in medical expenses.

RESULT: On the eve of trial, after numerous motions to continue and delay the trial, the County agreed to settle the suit with Aldana for \$4.75 million. The County previously settled with Kirifi.

OTHER INFORMATION: Defendant Moran pleaded no contest to driving under the influence of alcohol.