



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CLAIMS BOARD
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Oscar Valdez
Office of the Auditor-Controller
Steve Robles
Chief Executive Office
Adrienne M. Byers
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Los Angeles County Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, November 21, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.**, via online conference call. Members of the public who would like to listen to the open session of the meeting may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 613 670 745#, at 9:30 a.m. on November 21, 2022.

Reports of actions taken in Closed Session. The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, November 21, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Members of the public who would like to hear reportable actions taken on any Closed Session items may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 613 670 745#, at 10:55 a.m. on November 21, 2022. Please note that this time is an approximate start time and there may be a short delay before the Closed Session is concluded and the actions can be reported.

TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

You may submit written public comments by e-mail to claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov or by mail to: Attention: Los Angeles County Claims Board, Executive Office, County Counsel, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA, 90012.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 12 p.m. on Friday, November 18, 2022. Please include the Agenda item and meeting date in your correspondence. Comments and any other written submissions will become part of the official record of the meeting.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Any supporting documents will be posted and can be provided upon request. Please submit requests for supporting documents to claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov.

If you would like more information, please contact Claims Board Secretary Derek Stane at dstane@counsel.lacounty.gov.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest that are within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.
3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision [a] of Government Code Section 54956.9).

- a. M.H.C., a minor v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case Number 2:18-CV-08305

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations and deliberate indifference to medical needs by the Department of Health Services while plaintiff was held at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall facility; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$790,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- b. Chrysie Anagnostou v. County of Los Angeles et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:19-cv-08111

This lawsuit alleges wrongful death and federal civil rights violations against the Department of Health Services after plaintiff's daughter died at LAC+USC Medical Center; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$600,000.

- c. Sennett Devermont v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-CV-07028

This lawsuit concerns allegations of federal civil rights violations against the Sheriff's Department; authority is requested to make a statutory offer of \$60,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- d. Daniel Castillo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 20-CV-06227-DDP

This lawsuit concerns allegations of federal civil rights violations against the Sheriff's Department; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$26,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- e. Jesse Ortiz v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 20-CV-06229-DDP

This lawsuit concerns allegations of federal civil rights violations against the Sheriff's Department; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$39,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- f. Carolyn Jackson vs. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 20STCV49897

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$75,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- g. Robert Paul Lee Gurule, et al. v. Douglas Monroe Campbell, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV06489

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Fire Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$26,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- h. Michael Ahdunko v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 686341

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a probationary firefighter was subjected to harassment and discrimination by the Fire Department; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$97,500.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- i. Fiona Nagle v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court No. 20STCV41860

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors was subjected to disability discrimination, failure to accommodate, and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$225,000.

4. Approval of the minutes of the October 17, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	M.H.C., a minor v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	2:18-cv-08305
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	November 2, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 790,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	V. James DeSimone V. James DeSimone Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On January 23, 2018, M.H.C., a minor male, who was at the Los Angeles County's juvenile detention facility, began experiencing stomach pain. M.H.C. was ultimately transferred to a hospital where he was diagnosed with appendicitis and underwent an appendectomy. M.H.C. claims to suffer from complications resulting from the appendicitis.</p> <p>M.H.C. filed a case for civil rights violation claiming that the providers were deliberately indifferent to his medical needs.</p> <p>Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$790,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 373,281
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 74,640



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	January 23, 2018
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>On January 23, 2018, M.H.C., a minor male, who was at the Los Angeles County's juvenile detention facility, began experiencing stomach pain.</p> <p>In the course of the next day, M.H.C. was seen and examined by nurses and physicians who were providing care at the juvenile detention facility. Since M.H.C.'s symptoms were changing, the staff was unable to fully diagnose and treat him. M.H.C. was then transferred to a hospital where he was diagnosed with appendicitis. He underwent a surgery whereby his appendix was removed. M.H.C. is suffering from complications resulting from the appendicitis.</p>

1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

This is an economic settlement due to contradictory statements shared by one DHS witness. The medical care provided was found to be appropriate and timely.

Nevertheless, we identified opportunities for improvement which include:

- Assessment of the patient was not completed as ordered.
- Probation staff did not consistently communicate patient's clinical complaints to JCHS staff
- Nursing staff did not communicate the patient's report of vomiting clear liquid and saliva to the physician.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- All appropriate personnel corrective actions were taken.
- The A.C.N. Chair of the Patient Safety and Risk Management Committee referred the lack of communication issue to the Chief Deputy of the Probation Department
- JCHS Nursing leadership will provide training for nurses covering communication including notification of important findings to the physician.

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

- Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.
- No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Signature:	Date:

Name: (Department Head)	
Signature:	Date:

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY	
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.	
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Signature:	Date:

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Devermont, Sennett v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:21-CV-07028
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	August 31, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ Rule 68 offer for \$60,000, exclusive of attorneys' fees and costs
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Eduardo Madrid, Esq. Madrid Law Firm DeWitt Lacy, Esq. John L. Burris Law Offices
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard Hsueh Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to make a Rule 68 offer for \$60,000, exclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, in this lawsuit filed by Sennett Devermont against the County and a Sheriff's Department sergeant alleging federal civil rights violations and State law claims arising from his September 6, 2020, arrest.</p> <p>If Mr. Devermont does not accept the County's Rule 68 offer of judgment and he subsequently fails to obtain a more favorable judgment at trial, the court will require him to pay the County's post-offer costs. Additionally, Mr. Devermont may not recover his costs, including attorney and expert-witness fees, incurred after the date of the offer.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 27,805
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 518

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Daniel Castillo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:20-cv-06227-DDP-PD
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	July 13, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 26,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Kevin A. Lipeles, Esquire
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Carrie Clarke, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$26,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, this federal civil rights and State-law lawsuit filed by Plaintiff Daniel Castillo ("Castillo") against the Los Angeles County and Sheriff's Security Officer Jonathan Velasquez ("SSO Velasquez").
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 24,124
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 8,792

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jesse Ortiz v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:20-cv-06229-DDP-PD
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	July 13, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 39,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Kevin A. Lipeles, Esquire
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Carrie Clarke, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$39,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, this federal civil rights and State-law lawsuit filed by Plaintiff Jesse Ortiz ("Mr. Ortiz") against the Los Angeles County and Sheriff's Security Officer Jonathan Velasquez ("SSO Velasquez").
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 24,124
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 8,792

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Carolyn Jackson v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV49897
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 26, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Daniel L. Nelson, Esq. NELSON & NATALE
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LaTasha N. Corry Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On May 1, 2020, LASD employee Deputy Bryan Martin rear-ended Plaintiff's car. Plaintiff claims she sustained injuries as a result of the accident.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 9,936
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,654

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Robert Paul Lee Gurule, et al. v. Douglas Monroe Campbell, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV06489
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 18, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 26,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Victoria Le, Esq. Law Offices of London and Le
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from an accident that occurred on January 9, 2020, when a Fire Department paramedic truck rear-ended Plaintiffs' car on the Interstate 5 freeway. Plaintiffs claim to have suffered injuries as a result of the collision. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of this case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 8,469
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 128

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Michael Ahdunko v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	BC 686341
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	December 8, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 97,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Steven H. Haney, Esquire Haney & Young LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jenny P. Tam Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$97,500, a lawsuit for damages brought by Michael Ahdunko, against the Los Angeles County Fire Department ("Department"). Mr. Ahdunko alleges that he was a victim of harassment and discrimination based on his national origin by being subjected to verbal epithets and forced to engage in humiliating conduct due to his Native American ancestry while he was a probationary firefighter.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 193,959
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 25,866

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 2022

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:40 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference with all Claims Board Members participating telephonically. Claims Board Members online for the teleconference meeting were: Chair Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers.

All other persons also appeared telephonically. Those attending the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Caroline Craddock, Edward Morrissey, Shawn Luna, Armita Radjabian, Jennifer Lehman, Kevin Engelen, Roderick Sasis, Pirjo Ranasinghe, and Rosanne Wong; Department of Health Services: Arun Patel, Dawn Abarca, Sean Henderson, Avitia Roberto, and Joan Hubbell; Department of Public Social Services: Simon Agee, and Bety De Alba; Department of Children and Family Services: Elizabeth Pak, Tammy Nakada, and Julie Watson; Sheriff's Department: Shawnee Hinchman, Alise Norman, Florynce Diggs, Jason Bryant, Tania Plunkett, Frank Lopez, Shanese Winfrey, and Irma Chavez; Department of Beaches and Harbors: Stefan Popescu; Outside Counsel: Jon Monroy, and Anita Brenner.

2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

There was an unidentified member of the public on the public teleconference phone line but that person did not respond to the opportunity to address the Claims Board.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision [a] of Government Code section 54956.9).

At 9:41 a.m., the Chair convened the meeting into closed session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(e).

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

No members of the public were on the public teleconference phone line to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 11:32 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via the public teleconference phone line and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Sitha Thatch, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al. United States District Court Case No. 2:18-CV-10702

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations and deliberate indifference to safety needs by Sheriff's Department jail staff for the death of an inmate at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$400,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

b. **Brenda Galkin v. Varoz Aghajanian, et al.**
Brenda Galkin v. The Department of Social Services, et al.

These lawsuits allege that the Department of Children and Family Services failed to handle plaintiff's request for CALWORKS and to investigate her claim for child support.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$90,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

c. **Clark Lunde v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV21838

This dangerous condition lawsuit against the Department of Beaches and Harbors arises from a trip and fall accident at a park maintained by the County.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$500,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

d. **Los Angeles Times Communications, LLC v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS162607

This lawsuit involves a dispute regarding the production of records by the Sheriff's Department under the California Public Records Act.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 4.d. to a future meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

e. **Charles Muse v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV14877

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Sheriff's Department was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.e. in the amount of \$85,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

5. Approval of the Minutes of the September 19, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the regular meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers
Abstention: 1 – Steve Robles

6. Approval of the Minutes of the October 3, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the regular meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Oscar Valdez, and Adrienne M. Byers

7. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*
Derek Stane
Claims Board Secretary