



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
Destiny Castro
Chief Executive Office
Adrienne M. Byers
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

The Los Angeles County Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, April 21, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.**, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012. **Members of the public who would like to listen to the open session of the meeting or would like to provide public comment may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 337 385 296# at 9:30 a.m. on April 21, 2025.**

Reports of actions taken in Closed Session. The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, April 21, 2025, at approximately 10:50 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 337 385 296# at 10:50 a.m. on April 21, 2025. Please note that this 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 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18, 2025. 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.

If you wish to address the Los Angeles County Claims Board in person, you may come to the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012, and enter on the Second Floor. Please advise the security guard station personnel that you would like to attend the public portion of the Claims Board meeting, and a security guard will escort you to the Sixth Floor where you will be assisted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment is limited to the specific items on the agenda and general public comment is limited to subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: The Agenda and any supporting documents will be posted at <https://lacounty.gov/newsroom/public-information/los-angeles-county-claims-board/> 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 Laura Z. Salazar at lzalazar@counsel.lacounty.gov or Raina Mey at rmey@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 (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).
 - a. Non-Litigated Claim of City of Malibu

This claim seeks compensation for property damage sustained in a traffic collision involving a participant in the Sheriff's Department's Volunteers on Patrol program; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$34,431.61.

[See Supporting Document](#)
 - b. Susan Koenig, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCP00432

This petition for writ of mandate and complaint seeks compensation for alleged mishandling of Petitioners' sensitive confidential information; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$82,038.23.

[See Supporting Document](#)
 - c. Non-Litigated Claim of Jose Rivas Barillas
Claim No. 24-1657

This government tort claim against the Probation Department alleges a minor was physically assaulted by juvenile detainees at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$2,670,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)
 - d. Rachel Scanlon, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:18-cv-07759

This lawsuit arises from the alleged wrongful detention of minor Plaintiffs by the Department of Children and Family Services; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$850,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)
 - e. Anderson Mackey v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV04175

This lawsuit alleges that an employee from the Fire Department was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on race and disability; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$579,000.
4. Approval of the Minutes of the April 7, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)
5. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of City of Malibu
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 34,431.61
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Joseph A. Langton Principal Deputy County Counsel Litigation Monitoring Division
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from an automobile accident causing damages. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claim is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Koenig, Susan, et al v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCP00432
COURT	Hon. Stephen I. Goovitch, Dept. 82
DATE FILED	February 9, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Countywide
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$76,000, plus \$6,038.23 for the cost of document destruction
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Cohelan Khoury & Singer/Law Offices of Robin D. Perry
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Sheppard Mullin: Wynter Deagle Kendall Brill & Kelly: Robert Dugdale George Chuang & Associates
NATURE OF CASE	Writ of Mandate seeks court order for County to immediately conform its policies and practices for the handling and disposal of paper records containing confidential information in line with State laws and regulations.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	Shepard Mullin: \$300,449 \$ Kendall Brill & Kelly: \$366,158. George Chuang & Associates: \$13,750
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ \$1,040

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Jose Rivas Barillas
CASE NUMBER	Claim No. 24-1657
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	April 10, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Probation Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 2,670,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Jeremy Lessem, Esq. Jamal Tooson, Esq. Lessem, Newstat and Tooson, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jonathan Mccaverty Assistant County Counsel Andrew Baum Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen & Shapiro
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$2,670,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a tort claim filed by Claimant Heidi Barillas Lemus, on behalf of her minor son Jose Rivas Barillas, against the County of Los Angeles, the County Probation Department and a Deputy Probation Officer alleging her son was physically assaulted by juvenile detainees in December 2023 at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.</p> <p>Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs; therefore, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 65,949
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 29,098

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Rachel Scanlon, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:18-cv-07759
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	September 6, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 850,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	DON HOWARTH, ESQ. Howarth & Smith
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	ANGELA Y. PARK Senior Deputy County Counsel Social Services Division AVI BURKWITZ, ESQ. Peterson, Bradford, Burkwitz, Gregorio, Burkwitz & Su, LLP
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiffs allege civil rights violations related to the detention of their two children by the Department of Children and Family Services. Due to the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs and a potential adverse verdict. The full and final settlement of the case is in the amount of \$850,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 344,992
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 165,418



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to 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:	September 2017 to December 2017
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Plaintiffs allege various claims against the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), including violations of their civil rights resulting from the removal of their children from their custody.

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

The Department's handling of the two Emergency Response referral investigations were in line with its policies, and practice deficiencies were not identified upon review. Further, the matter was tried before a U.S. District Court in 2021, and the jury reached a defense verdict by unanimous decision.

With the appellate court's ruling, the Department's decision to avoid protracted litigation and seek resolution was based on a cost-benefit analysis considering a multitude of factors.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

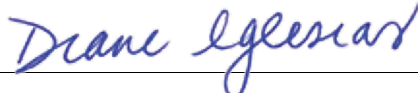
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)


The Department handled this matter in accordance with its policies and practices. Nevertheless, following the Court of Appeal's ruling, DCFS consulted with attorneys to discuss warrant protocols and practices, and whether any changes were necessary given the Court's orders. The review did not identify any practice gaps.


Additionally, County Counsel and Department trainers, managers, and supervisors continue to emphasize the importance of case documentation during consultations and other meetings (including general staff and unit gatherings) to reiterate the need to keep thorough and comprehensive records.

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) Diane Iglesias, Senior Deputy Director	
Signature: 	Date: 4/7/25

Name: (Department Head) Brandon T. Nichols, Director	
Signature: 	Date: 04/09/25

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.	
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date: 4/10/2025

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

April 7, 2025

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers, and Claims Board Secretary Laura Z. Salazar participating in person at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012.

All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Norayr Zurabyan, LaTasha Corry, Kevin Engeliem, Millicent L. Rolon, Michael Gordon, Kent M. Sommer, Katherine Bowser, Shawn Luna, Nicole Davis Tinkham, Lynette Wilson, Jonathan McCaverty, Jennifer Lehman, Judy Whitehurst, and Jason Gonzalez appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Jacklin Injijian, Michele Chimienti, and Ronald Castaneda appeared for the Department of Public Works. Lieutenant Jennifer M. Roth, Commander Rick O. Rector, Captain Shawnee N. Hinchman, Deputy Matthew C. Webster, and Commander Stacy B. Morgan appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Vilma Lopez, Lisa Mandel, and Diane Iglesias appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Stacey A. Simpson, Vicky Waters, and Deanna Carlisle appeared for the Probation Department. Angelica V. De Mesa and Tomas Guterres appeared for Collins + Collins LLP. Laura Inlow appeared for Collinson Greco. Kelly Ward appeared for Kjar, McKenna & Stockalper. Avi Burkwitz appeared for Peterson, Bradford, Burkwitz, Gregorio, Burkwitz & Su, LLP. Andrew Baum and Robert Lee appeared for Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro LLP.

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.

No member of the public appeared in person, and unidentified members of the public who appeared on the public teleconference phone line did not respond to the opportunity to address the Claims Board.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

At 9:44 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(f).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

No member of the public appeared in person. On the public teleconference phone line, attorneys from Slater, Slater, Schulman, LLP including Adam Slater, James Lewis, and Alina Sookasian, were present to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 12:08 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Laura Ann Navarro v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 22STCV07209

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff sustained injuries when she tripped and fell due to deteriorated pavement on the sidewalk.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$70,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**b. Karen Vargas Pazaran v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 24STCV12119**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**c. Juan Zamora, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV07595**

This lawsuit alleges negligence by a Sheriff's Department deputy on an inmate incarcerated at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$190,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**d. WenHui Chen, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV25304**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained by Plaintiffs in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**e. Non-Litigated Claim of Joanna Mancilla
EEOC: 480-2023-04491**

This claim filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleges that a former intern with the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to disability discrimination.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$211,076.40.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**f. Jane Doe 1, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV20949 and approximately 6,800 AB 218
Matters Against the County of Los Angeles**

These matters concern allegations of childhood sexual abuse against the Probation Department, Department of Children and Family Services, Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Health Services, Sheriff's Department, and Fire Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 (plus administrative costs).

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

5. Approval of the Minutes of the March 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the March 17, 2025, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez

Abstention: Adrienne M. Byers

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By



Laura Z. Salazar
Claims Board Secretary