



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CLAIMS BOARD

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Arlene Barrera
Auditor-Controller
Steve Robles
Chief Executive Office
Roger H. Granbo
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING

The County of Los Angeles Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, September 18, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

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. Non-Litigated Claims of Alfredo and Robin Trento and State Farm Insurance

This inverse condemnation claim against the Department of Public Works contends that an air release valve malfunctioned and released water onto claimants' property; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$54,867.76.

See Supporting Document

b. Jenaro Soto v. Los Angeles County Flood Control District, et al. United States District Court Case No. 2:15-CV-00787

This lawsuit against the Department of Public Works alleges violation of Plaintiff's civil rights under the American with Disabilities Act as he experienced fear and anxiety accessing ADA non-compliant entry points to the Rio Hondo Bike Path, which is owned and maintain by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$30,000.

See Supporting Document

- c. Angel Galvez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. CV 15-08747

This lawsuit concerns allegations that Sheriff's Department personnel failed to protect Plaintiff from an assault by another inmate; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$60,000.

See Supporting Document

- d. Dwight Edmondson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 535 508

This lawsuit alleges that Sheriff's Deputies detained, falsely arrested, and used excessive force on Plaintiff at the 7th Street Metro Station; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$39,750.

See Supporting Document

- e. Maria Loberg, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 16-CV-06190

This lawsuit concern allegations that Mr. Loberg committed suicide while in the custody of the Sheriff's Department at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility and while receiving care provided by the Department of Mental Health; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$1,700,000.

See Supporting Document

- f. Ban Nguyen v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 572 479

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee from the Sheriff's Department was subjected to retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$1,600,000.

- g. Tomas Casillas v. Stephen David Martin, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 560 247

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Department of Parks and Recreation employee and a pedestrian; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$50,000.

See Supporting Document

- h. Fanny Valenzuela, a minor by and through her Guardian Ad Litem, Maria Valenzuela v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 565 890

This dangerous condition lawsuit against the Department of Parks and Recreation arises from injuries received in a trip and fall accident at Mary M. Bethune Park; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$47,200.

See Supporting Document

- i. Advokids, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS 150 163

This lawsuit seeks a court order commanding the Department of Children and Family Services to provide foster parents with notice and the opportunity to be heard and submit evidence at proceedings involving children in their care; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$500,868.

See Supporting Document

- j. Nida Hoese v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 567 918

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Fire Department utility truck; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$500,000.

See Supporting Document

- k. Stephen Weston v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:15-CV-3330

This lawsuit concerns allegations that the Fire Department violated the Fair Labor Standards Act by not compensating Plaintiff for overtime; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$154,500.

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.
5. Approval of the minutes of the August 21, 2017, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

See Supporting Document

6. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.
7. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claims of Alfredo and Robin Trento and State Farm Insurance Co., ASO Alfredo Trento
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	July 27, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 54,867.76
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Lindsay Yoshiyama Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from the malfunction of an air release valve that released water onto the Claimants' property resulting in damage to the premises.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jenaro Soto v. Los Angeles County Flood Control District, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:15-CV-00787-FFM
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	February 4, 2015
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works - Flood Control District
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 30,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Potter Handy, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Dusan Pavlovic Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>Plaintiff, a physically disabled person who uses a wheelchair for mobility, alleges that on March 19, 2014, and other occasions thereafter, he was unable to access the Rio Hondo Bike Path ("Bike Path") at multiple entry points in the Cities of Downey and Bell Gardens, due to their noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.</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 in the amount of \$30,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 28,190
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 6,050

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Angel Galvez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	CV 15-08747 CAS (ASx)
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	November 10, 2015
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 60,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Cameron Sehat, Esq. The Sehat Law Firm, PLC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Timothy J. Kral Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$60,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights and State-law negligence lawsuit by Plaintiff Angel Galvez alleging Sheriff's personnel failed to protect him from an assault by a cellmate at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility.</p> <p>Defendants deny the allegations.</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 in the amount of \$60,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 50,704
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 23,354

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Dwight Edmondson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 535508
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 6, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 39,750
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Philip Olu Falese, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Timothy J. Kral Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$39,750, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal and State-law civil rights lawsuit by Dwight Edmondson, who alleges he was unjustifiably detained, falsely arrested, and subjected to excessive force by Sheriff's Deputies.</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 in the amount of \$39,750 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 24,570
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 7,523

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Maria Loberg, et. al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	16CV-06190
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	August 17, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Mental Health Sheriff-Custody Services Division-Specialized Programs-Twin Towers Correctional Facility
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$1,700,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Ronald Kaye Kaye, McLane, Bednarski & Litt
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On November 17, 2014, Eric Loberg was arrested by Pomona Police Department and transferred to Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's custody on November 18, 2014. Mr. Loberg was evaluated and housed in general population, mental health service area.</p> <p>On November 26, 2014, Mr. Loberg jumped down from the upper tier of the public area where he was being housed. He was immediately transported to LAC+USC Medical Center. On December 4, 2014, Mr. Loberg died as a direct result of his head injuries.</p> <p>Mr. Loberg's daughters, Maria Loberg and Erica Loberg, filed a complaint against the County of Los Angeles alleging that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and Department of Mental Health failed to recognize Mr. Loberg's suicide risk and prevent it.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 95,839
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 20,264

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Tomas Casillas v. Stephen David Martin, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC560247
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 9, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Parks and Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Mindy Bish
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case involves a December 20, 2013, accident when a Chevrolet Passenger Van driven by an employee of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pulling a trailer on a path at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area struck plaintiff Tomas Casillas who was walking on the path with two other companions. Mr. Casillas claims to have suffered injuries and damages from the accident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 92,948
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 40,043

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Fanny Valenzuela, a minor by and through her Guardian Ad Litem, Maria Valenzuela v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	BC565890
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 1, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Parks and Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 47,200
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Paul Wong Law Offices of Paul Wong
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jessica C. Rivas Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a June 1, 2014 trip and fall incident at Mary M. Bethune Park. Plaintiff claims to have suffered injuries as a result. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 15,278
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,348

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Advokids, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BS150163
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 6, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 500,868
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Hadsell Stormer Keeny Richardson & Renick LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Thomas Guterrez, Esq. Collins Collins Muir + Stewart Thomas Fagan, Principal Deputy County Counsel, Social Services Division
NATURE OF CASE	Petitioners and Plaintiffs Advokids, a non-profit organization, and foster parents, Heather Whelan, Patrick J. Guske and Carrie Chung, seek a court order commanding the Department of Children and Family Services to provide foster parents with notice and the opportunity to be heard and submit evidence at all proceedings involving children in their care. They allege the department routinely fails to provide foster parents with the requisite notices of court hearings.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 194,824
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,636

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Nida Hoese v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 567918
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	December 24, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 500,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Brent Merritt, Esq. Steve Glickman, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Adrian G. Gragas Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on October 15, 2013. Plaintiff alleges a Fire Department employee utility driver made an unsafe left turn and collided into her vehicle at the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Hacienda Place in the City of West Hollywood. Ms. Hoese claims injuries as a result of the collision.</p> <p>Due to the uncertainty and risks of litigation, a full and final settlement is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 51,486
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 24,824

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

August 21, 2017

1. Call to Order.

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:29 a.m. The meeting was held in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

Claims Board Members present at the meeting were: Chair Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Michael Gordon, Richard Kudo, Millicent Rolon, Narbeh Bagdasarian, Armita Radjabian, Julie Dixon Silva, and Rick Brouwer; Department of Public Works: Michael Hays and Marty Moreno; Department of Health Services: Elena Laurich and David Oh; Probation: Scott Sanders, Dennis Carnell, and Vicky Santana; Department of Children and Family Services: Christina Lee; District Attorney's Office: John Spillane; and Outside Counsel: Tom Guterres and Linda Miller Savitt.

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 members of the public addressed the Claims Board.

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

At 9:31 a.m., the Chairperson adjourned the meeting into Closed Session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(j) below.

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

At 10:28 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

a. **Interinsurance Exchange v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 592 008

This lawsuit seeks compensation from the Department of Public Works for property damage allegedly caused by a backflow of a storm drain following a rain storm.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$47,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

b. **Luke Pfaffinger, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 599 525

This inverse condemnation lawsuit against the Department of Public Works contends that a main line sewer backed up into Plaintiffs' home.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$87,112.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

c. **J.M.M., a minor by and through his Guardian Ad Litem, Orlanda Cruz v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. CV 14-06529

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a minor in custody of the Probation Department suffered injuries when he was assaulted by other minors.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$3,900,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

d. **Amanda Anderson, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 15-CV-05028

This lawsuit alleges Plaintiffs' civil rights were violated when the Sheriff's Department and the Department of Children and Family Services removed their children without consent, exigent circumstances, or a warrant.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$200,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

e. **Beth Silverman, Tannaz Mokayef v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 577 363

This lawsuit concern allegations that an employee from the District Attorney's office was subjected to sexual harassment and discrimination.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$700,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

5. **Approval of the minutes of the August 7, 2017, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Roger Granbo

6. **Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.**

No such matters were discussed.

7. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By 
Sandra C. Ruiz