

**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD**  
**HELD VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL**  
**ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022, AT 9:30 A.M.**

**Present: Chair Steve Robles, Adrienne M. Byers, and Oscar Valdez**

- 1. Call to Order.**
- 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 were on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

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

**a. Non-Litigated Claim of Geico Insurance ASO Rana Shahrukh Khan**

This claim arises from alleged property damage sustained in an automobile accident involving a Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$25,916.49.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**b. Jovany Macias v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV29396**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in a motorcycle accident involving a Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$175,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

c. **Sarah Hile vs. Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19AVCV00756**

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a slip and fall accident in a Department of Public Social Services building.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$25,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. **Marlene Orozco, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-5481**

This lawsuit alleges federal civil rights violations and deliberate indifference to safety needs by Sheriff's Department jail staff following 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.d. in the amount of \$2,500,000.

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

e. **Idelfonso Perez vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case BC706040**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$750,000.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.e. in the amount of \$750,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

f. **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 recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.f. in the amount of \$426,836.79.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**g. Estate of Zelalem Eshetu Ewnetu v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC702015**

This wrongful death lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department arises from the fatal shooting of plaintiff's son.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.g. in the amount of \$750,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

**h. Natia Sampson vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 5:17-CV-00599**

This lawsuit alleges civil rights violations and negligence against the Department of Children and Family Services.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.h. in the amount of \$300,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

**i. Leah Garcia v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV02488**

This lawsuit alleges negligence and wrongful death against the Department of Children and Family Services; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$75,000.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.i. in the amount of \$75,000.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**j. Arturo Aceves Jimenez v. City of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. CV 21-07117 JPR**

This lawsuit against the District Attorney's office alleges that plaintiff's wrongful conviction resulted in his imprisonment for 25 years.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.j. in the amount of \$1,200,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

**k. Tracey Stevens v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV38664**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the District Attorney's office was subjected to retaliation.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.k. in the amount of \$170,000.

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

**l. Zahra Karimy v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court No. BC644373**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Public Works was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.l. in the amount of \$75,000.

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

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the December 5, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the regular meeting.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**5. 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 an 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.

**6. Adjournment.**

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Geico Insurance ASO Rana Shahrukh Khan
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 25,916.49
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Yuan Chang Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This claim arises from an automobile accident that occurred on September 4, 2021, when a vehicle operated by a Register-Recorder/County Clerk employee rear-ended a vehicle driven by Geico's insured. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the claim is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Jovany Macias v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV29396
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 4, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 175,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Alexander C. Eisner, Esq. Shawn Steel Law Firm
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin Engelen Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a motor vehicle accident lawsuit that occurred on November 5, 2019, when a car operated by an employee of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk struck plaintiff who was riding a motorcycle. Plaintiff claims to have suffered personal 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	\$ 31,725
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 14,559



## 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:	November 5, 2019
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On 11/05/2019 a temporary employee, Election Assistant II, NC from the Election Operations Center (EOC), was driving an Avis rental van while performing Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk duties. The employee was traveling on Interstate 105 (Century Freeway) westbound in the High Occupancy Vehicle Lane (HOV). The employee attempted to change lanes crossing the double yellow lines, while traveling in the HOV, and struck a motorcyclist traveling in the next lane. The California Highway Patrol determined that the employee caused the collision by driving in violation of California Vehicle code section 22107 (Unsafe Turning Movement). There were no administrative actions or trainings recommended for the employee due to temporary status. Furthermore, the employee had already been released from her temporary assignment when the RR/CC became aware of the accident and has not been rehired.

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

Root Cause A: The employee performed an unsafe lane change and violated California Vehicle code section 22107 (Unsafe Turning Movement).

Root Cause B: The employee failed to adequately check the passenger side mirror and blind spot for approaching vehicles, prior to performing the lane change.

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

Corrective Action for Root Cause A:

1. Effective June 1, 2022, provide Safe Driver Training materials as part of New Hire Orientation Packet. A member of the Health and Safety team will provide an overview of Health & Safety topics, including a specific presentation to staff hired for driving positions.
2. Effective June 1, 2022, during the new hire onboarding orientation, staff assigned to driving positions are required to view the Defensive Driver Training Video developed by the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office – Risk Management Section. Training completion will be recorded by the department training coordinator in the Learning Net.

Corrective Action for Root Cause B:

1. Human Resources/Risk Management Section will develop a ten-week curriculum for driving

techniques and tips for staying safe on the road. The curriculum will include the ten most common causes of vehicle accidents, techniques to avoid vehicle accidents, and how to report an accident. The curriculum will be adjusted to meet the Department's needs.

2. Effective, July 1, 2022, the supervisor/manager will hold weekly briefings (ten to fifteen minutes) huddle sessions for all drivers conducting department business on county time. This opportunity will be used to remind drivers that all rules and regulations must be followed while driving for the department. On a weekly basis, identify and discuss one of the top ten causes of vehicle accidents, provide best practices and tips to reduce the likelihood of this type of accident.

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)

Esteban Camara

Signature:

*Esteban Camara*

Date:

6/17/2022

Name: (Department Head)

Dean C. Logan

Signature:

*Dean C. Logan*

Date:

6/27/2022

**Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY**

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

- ☒ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.  
☐ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)

Destiny Castro

Signature:

*Destiny Castro*

Date:

06/28/2022



## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Sarah Hile v. Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19AVCV00756
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 8, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Social Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 25,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Gerald L. Marcus, Esq. Law Offices of Gerald L. Marcus
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Adrian G. Gragas, Esq. Assistant County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a dangerous condition of public property lawsuit that occurred on September 12, 2018, when plaintiff Sarah Hile slipped and fell on water on the floor of a Department of Public Social Services building in Lancaster. Ms. Hile 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	\$ 18,198
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 10,089

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Idelfonso Perez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC706040
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	05/11/2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 750,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Babak Yaghoubian, Esq. Power Legal Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LaTasha N. Corry Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	On June 21, 2017, LASD employee Lt. Charles Norris rear-ended Plaintiff's car. The force of the initial impact caused Plaintiff to rear-end the driver in front of him. Plaintiff claims severe injuries as a result of the incident.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 78,566
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 34,531

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Los Angeles Times Communications, LLC v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	BS162607
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 20, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 426,836.79
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Kelly Aviles, Esq. Law Offices of Kelly Aviles
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Roderick Sasis, Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$426,836.79, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a California Public Records Act ("CPRA") lawsuit filed by the Los Angeles Times ("Plaintiff") against the County.</p> <p>Due to the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$426,836.79 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 217,666.25
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 37,457.32

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Ewnetu, Zelalem Eshetu, Estate of v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC702015
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 12, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$750,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Justin A. Palmer. Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Minas Samuelian Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$750,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a lawsuit filed by the mother of Zelalem Eshetu Ewnetu against the County alleging civil rights violations and wrongful death following the death of Mr. Ewnetu.</p> <p>Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$750,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 376,720.42
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 42,596.70



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Date of incident/event:	April 12, 2017, at approximately, 1:14 a.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p><b><u>Estate of Zelalem Ewnetu v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u></b> Summary Corrective Action Plan 2022-42</p> <p>On April 12, 2017, at approximately 1:07 a.m., two on-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputy sheriffs, assigned to Century Station, were dispatched a call for service (possible automobile burglary) in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles. The informant indicated an unknown male, in an unknown vehicle, opened the trunk of a 2003 Honda</p> <p>As deputies one (driver) and two (passenger) arrived at the location, they observed an unoccupied Honda with the trunk open. The vehicle description was consistent with the information relayed in the call for service.</p> <p>Deputies one and two saw a 2016, black, Kia Forte parked in the north/south alley. The vehicle's engine was on, and the brake lights were illuminated. The deputies believed the vehicle might be connected to the possible automobile burglary. The deputies drove south through the alley and parked behind the vehicle.</p> <p>As deputies one and two approached the vehicle, they saw the vehicle's windows were rolled up and had a dark tint. Additionally, they smelled the odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle.</p> <p>Deputy one approached the driver's side of the vehicle and tapped on the closed window with his flashlight. The decedent rolled down his window approximately two inches and a plume of smoke (a strong odor of marijuana) was emitting from the interior of the vehicle. Deputy one advised the decedent it was illegal to smoke marijuana while operating a vehicle and his vehicle is blocking the ally. The decedent replied, "I can smoke marijuana wherever I want." Deputy one instructed the decedent to roll down his window further. The decedent rolled down the driver's side window another four inches which allowed deputy one to see his hands.</p> <p>As deputy two approached the passenger's side of the vehicle, he observed the passenger window was rolled down approximately five to six inches. Deputy two smelled a strong odor of burnt marijuana emitting from the vehicle. He additionally saw the decedent was the sole occupant in the vehicle (the decedent was holding a cigarette and a cellular phone in his hands).</p> <p>Deputy two instructed the decedent to roll down the front passenger window. The decedent became agitated and questioned why he was being stopped. Deputy two again asked the decedent to roll down the front passenger side window and to keep his hands on the steering wheel.</p>

	<p>The decedent replied, "Fuck you! I am not putting my hands anywhere." The decedent was loud, uncooperative, and made erratic movements with his hands. The decedent then placed his cellular phone down and moved his hands towards the gear shift.</p> <p>Deputy one ordered the decedent to exit the vehicle to further investigate the source of the marijuana.</p> <p>Deputy two reached through the vehicle's partially open passenger's side window to unlock the door. The decedent rolled the passenger's side window up, and trapped deputy two's arm between the window and window frame. Deputy two pulled his arm free and was able to unlock the passenger's side door. Deputy two reached into the vehicle and turned the vehicle off. Deputy two took the keys out of the ignition and placed them on the roof of the decedent's vehicle.</p> <p>The decedent unlocked the driver's door. Deputy one opened the driver's door and placed his hand on the decedent's left arm to guide him out of the vehicle. The decedent suddenly jerked his arm away from deputy one and turned his upper body to the right, causing his back to face deputy one. The decedent reached into the backseat of his vehicle through the two front seats.</p> <p>Deputy two ordered the decedent to show him his hands. The decedent ignored deputy two's order and armed himself with a .40 caliber semi-automatic firearm. The decedent appeared to rack the slide of the firearm while deputy two yelled, "Gun! Gun! Gun!" Deputy one retreated to the rear of the decedent's vehicle.</p> <p>Fearing the decedent was going to kill him or deputy one, deputy two drew his service weapon and fired a volley of rounds at the decedent. Deputy one immediately retreated towards the rear of the decedent's vehicle to avoid being shot.</p> <p>The decedent exited his vehicle and pointed his firearm at deputy one. Fearing he was about to be shot, deputy one fired a volley of rounds at the decedent. Simultaneously, deputy two saw the decedent turning the firearm towards deputy one. Fearing deputy one was about to be shot and killed, deputy two fired a second volley of rounds at the decedent.</p> <p>The decedent dropped his firearm (approximately one or two feet from his body) and fell face down with his hands concealed, underneath his body, near his waistband. Deputy one ordered the decedent to place his hands behind his back. Although the decedent was still moving, he did not comply with deputy ones' orders. The decedent's firearm was within arm's reach of the decedent. Deputy two broadcast emergent radio traffic regarding the deputy involved shooting.</p> <p>Deputy two aimed his service weapon at the decedent's body while Deputy one approached the decedent's firearm. Deputy one kicked the firearm towards their patrol vehicle. Both deputies retreated to their patrol vehicle, using the vehicle's doors as cover. The deputies held the decedent at gunpoint until assisting units arrived.</p> <p>Additional deputies and a field sergeant arrived to assist deputies one and two. Believing the decedent might be armed with a second firearm, the field sergeant directed deputy three to deploy a less-lethal stun bag.</p>
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	<p>Deputy three fired two stun bag rounds at the decedent's lower extremities to gain his compliance. The decedent did not respond. An arrest team was formed and approached the decedent.</p> <p>Deputies discovered the decedent had no pulse and requested the Los Angeles County Fire Department respond to render medical aid to the decedent.</p> <p>Deputies performed CPR on the decedent until the arrival of Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics (Engine #16). Despite the efforts of both deputies and paramedics, the decedent was pronounced deceased at 1:32 a.m.</p> <p>A command post and containment of the scene were established by assisting deputies. Deputies one and two were transported to Century Station pending interviews with Homicide investigators.</p> <p>At approximately 3:00 a.m. the handling Homicide investigators arrived at the command post and took control of the scene.</p> <p>At approximately 4:40 a.m., The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Crime Lab arrived at the location. The criminalist identified, marked, and photographed evidence and the scene. A black semi-automatic firearm was laying between the patrol vehicle and the decedent's vehicle.</p> <p>During the investigation, sixteen live .40 caliber rounds were located wrapped inside a white tissue paper inside the center console of the decedent's vehicle. Two containers of medicinal marijuana and a small, burned marijuana cigarette were also located inside the decedent's vehicle. Investigators determined the firearm was registered to the decedent.</p> <p>The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office investigator arrived at approximately 11:00 a.m. A thorough investigation was conducted. The decedent was transported to the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.</p> <p>The decedent was hit with three rounds. One round exited and reentered the decedent's body, causing him to sustain four gunshot wounds. One round to the upper left back. A second round to the upper right arm. A third round to the upper right arm which exited and re-entered the right portion of his abdomen. Los Angeles County Coroner Medical Examiner, Dr. Ogonna Chinwah determined the decedent died from multiple gunshot wounds.</p> <p>A toxicology report showed the presence of marijuana in the decedent's system at the time of death.</p>
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

A **Department** root cause in this incident was deputy one and two used deadly force against the decedent, who was armed with a semi-automatic handgun.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was the deputies did not have equipment (Body-Worn Camera) to video record their contact with the decedent, to prove or disprove plaintiff's allegations.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the decedent's failure to comply with lawful orders of the deputy sheriffs.

A **non-Department** root cause in this incident was the decedent pulled away from deputy one and armed himself with a handgun.

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

#### **Criminal investigation**

The investigation was submitted to the Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for consideration of filing criminal charges.

On September 20, 2017, the District Attorney's Office completed their review of the fatal shooting of the decedent by the deputies. It was concluded the deputies acted lawfully, and in self-defense.

#### **Administrative Investigation**

This incident was investigated by representatives of the Sheriff's Department Internal Affairs Bureau to determine if any administrative misconduct occurred before, during, or after this incident. The investigation results were presented to an Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) for evaluation. On September 6, 2018, the EFRC determined the use of force and tactics were within Department policy.

#### **Station Briefing**

In the days following the incident, personnel were briefed on the events known at the time, based on information provided by Homicide investigators. Special attention was placed on officer safety (specifically reaching into vehicles), tactical preparedness, and lessons learned to assist deputies if they ever found themselves in a similar situation. Briefings occurred on all three shifts and were conducted by the field sergeants and watch commanders.

#### **Station Body Worn Cameras**

As of October 2020, all personnel assigned to Century Station were issued a Body-Worn Camera in an effort to ensure all public contact is transparent. The use of BWC's ensures reliable recording of enforcement and investigative contacts with the public. The Department established policy and procedures for the purpose, use, and deployment of the Department issued BWC:



County of Los Angeles  
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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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.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)

Shawnee N. Hinchman, Captain  
Risk Management Bureau

Signature:



Date:

11/14/2022

Name: (Department Head)

Edwin E. Alvarez, Chief  
Professional Standards Division

Signature:



Date:

11/15/22

**Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY**

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

- ☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.  
☒ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this Department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)

Destiny Castro

Signature:



Date:

11/16/2022

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Natia Sampson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	5:17-CV-00599 FLA(KSx)
COURT	United States District Court, Central District
DATE FILED	March 31, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 300,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Vincent W. Davis, Esq. Carol A. Baidas, Esq. Law Offices of Vincent W. Davis and Associates
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Armita Radjabian Deputy County Counsel  David Weiss David Weiss Law
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$300,000, inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a lawsuit filed against the County of Los Angeles, the Department of Children and Family Services, and several DCFS children social workers ("CSW"). Plaintiff alleges the CSWs violated her civil rights and retaliated against her.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 188,154
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 21,333

NATIA SAMPSON vs. NICOLE DAVIS, et al.



## 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:	December 11, 2015
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	This claim is the result of a lawsuit filed by plaintiff/ legal guardian Natia Sampson after the minor H.S. was detained from her care and custody on December 11, 2015. Ms. Sampson alleges that the detention of H.S. was in retaliation for her October 2015 complaints about sexual harassment by the social worker and complaints regarding other services provided by Department of Children and Family Services' staff.

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

The Department of Children and Family Services' social work staffer was allowed to continue to provide child welfare services including court reports with recommendations of detention after the Plaintiff / Legal Guardian made allegations of sexual harassment.

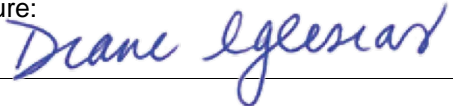
2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:  
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)


A-1 All Department of Children of Family Services' bureau and regional office management and supervisory staff will continue to conduct ongoing case reviews on open cases to ensure the quality and consistency of child welfare services.

A-2 All Department of Children and Family Services' bureau and regional staff will consult with County Counsel and DCFS Human Resource Division staff when there are allegations of misconduct against staff and concerns regarding continued participation in case-related activities.

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

- ☒ The corrective actions address department-wide system issues  
☐ The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.


Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
<b>Diane Iglesias, Senior Deputy Director</b>	
Signature: 	Date: 12/7/22

Name: (Department Head)	
<b>Brandon T. Nichols, Director</b>	
Signature: 	Date: 12/08/22

**Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY**

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

- ☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.  
☒ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
<b>Destiny Castro</b>	
Signature: 	Date: 12/09/2022

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Leah Garcia v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV02488
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 21, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 75,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	David Lira, Esq. Engstrom, Lipscomb & Lack
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Katherine Bowser Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff alleges negligence and wrongful death claims against DCFS due to the death of her child while in foster care.  Due to the high risk of and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$75,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 55,143
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,667

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Arturo Aceves Jimenez v. City of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	CV 21-07117
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	September 2, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	District Attorney
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 1,200,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Barrett S. Litt, Esquire McLane, Bednarski & Litt, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jonathan McCaverty Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is a recommendation to settle for \$1,200,000, a District Attorney federal civil rights lawsuit brought by Arturo Jimenez against the County for a wrongful conviction that resulted in his imprisonment of 25 years. Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs. The full and final settlement amount of \$1,200,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 120,234
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 20,000



## 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:	1995-2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>In May 1995, Plaintiff was convicted of the murder of a 14-year-old boy affiliated with a rival gang. He was 18 years old at the time and was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison. He ultimately served approximately 25 years of that sentence before being released in Spring 2020.</p> <p>In January 2020, the Plaintiff filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus ("Petition"). After reviewing the Petition the District Attorney ("DA") conceded that the Plaintiff's defense counsel was ineffective and the Plaintiff did not receive a fair trial. The Petition was granted, and the Plaintiff was released from custody.</p> <p>In February 2021, the DA and the Plaintiff's counsel jointly brought a motion for factual innocence which the Court granted shortly thereafter. Of note, at no point did the DA admit or concede to any misconduct or error by their office or its prosecutor.</p>

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

In 2021, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) joined the Plaintiff in filing a motion for factual innocence with the Superior Court.

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

A critical part of the LADA mission is to ensure the integrity of criminal convictions. To that end, the LADA has a comprehensive post-conviction review policy and commits significant resources to reviewing criminal convictions. The LADA's Office has three units devoted to the review and handling of criminal convictions. The units include the Post-Conviction Review Unit, Writs and Appeals Division and HABLIT. The mission of the office is to ensure the integrity of convictions and to review the cases ensuring that the defendant had a fair trial. In 2020, the LADA reviewed the Plaintiff's underlying criminal case and determined that the Plaintiff had been denied a fair trial due to ineffective assistance of counsel. Further, in 2021 the LADA's Office continued discussions with the Plaintiff's criminal attorney and reviewed new witness statements and determined that the Plaintiff should be found to be factually innocent based on the applicable legal standard and LADA Special Directive 20-10. The actions of the LADA were all in furtherance of justice and to ensure the Plaintiff's fair treatment. The LADA's mission and the prosecutor's ethical obligations require this thorough and extensive process to safeguard the rights of the accused and the integrity of criminal convictions. As such, no corrective action should be taken in this matter.

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)  
Julie Dixon Silva

Signature: 

Date: 12/6/22

Name: (Department Head)

Signature: 

Date: 12-6-2022



**Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY**

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

- ☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.  
☒ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)

Destiny Castro

Signature:

*Destiny Castro*

Date:

12/06/2022

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 2022

#### 1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:36 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, and Oscar Valdez. Adrienne M. Byers was absent.

All other persons also appeared telephonically. Those attending the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Narbeh Bagdasarian, Adrian Gragas, Edward Morrissey, Kevin Engelen, Richard Kudo, Minas Samuelian, and Richard Brouwer; Department of Health Services: Catherine Mathers, and Konita Wilks; Sheriff's Department: Irma Chavez, Shanese Winfrey, Alise Norman, Shawnee Hinchman, Michael Hannemann, Robert Jones, Jose Mendoza, Yolanda Figueroa, Minh Dinh, Andrew Cruz, Thomas Kim, Richard Mejia, Edmundo Torres, Angela Ingham, John Haynes, Socorro Merchain, and David Berry; Department of Parks and Recreation: Devyn Dawson; Department of Social Services: Carlos Molina; Outside Counsel: Thomas Hurrell, and Lenore Kelly. ONLY TWO?

#### 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 were on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

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

At 9:37 a.m., the Chair convened the meeting into closed session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(h).

#### 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 11:56 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. Veralice Aviles v. County of Los Angeles Los Angeles Superior Court, Case Number 22STCV04639

This lawsuit against the Department of Health Services concerns allegations of sexual misconduct by a technician at Olive View Medical Center.

##### Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.a. in the amount of \$131,800.

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

**b. Michael Aaron Hitchcock v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV17492**

This lawsuit against the Department of Parks and Recreation involves a trip and fall incident on a walkway at Roy Campanella Park in the City of Compton.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.b. in the amount of \$65,000.

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

**c. Jesus Marlene Gomez Rodriguez v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 19STCV23266**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.c. in the amount of \$29,000.

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

**d. Edilzar Arreaga v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 19STCV38117**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.d. in the amount of \$62,500.

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

**e. Eric Omar Tarrango Barrenada, et. al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Orange County Superior Court Case No.: 30-2020-01163429**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.e. in the amount of \$125,000.

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

**f. Jeffrey Lynn Rethmeier v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Number 20STCV01171**

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries plaintiff sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4.f. in the amount of \$175,000.

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

**g. Estate of Zelalem Eshetu Ewnetu v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC702015**

This wrongful death lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department arises from the fatal shooting of plaintiff's son.

Action Taken:

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

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

**h. Gabriela Alcazar v. Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 19STCV40192**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a Department of Public Social Services employee was subjected to retaliation, failure to reasonably accommodate, and failure to engage in the interactive process.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4.h. in the amount of \$37,000.

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

**5. Approval of the Minutes of the October 17, 2022, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued Item 5 to the next meeting.

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

**6. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By *Derek Stane*  
Derek Stane  
Claims Board Secretary