



# 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, January 5, 2026, 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 857 306 660# at 9:30 a.m. on January 5, 2026.**

**Reports of actions taken in Closed Session.** The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, January 5, 2026, at approximately 12:15 p.m. Members of the public who would like to hear the reportable actions taken on any Closed Session items may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 857 306 660# at 12:15 p.m. on January 5, 2026. 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](mailto: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 comments or documentation must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 2026. 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 you will be escorted to the Sixth Floor and 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](mailto:claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov).

If you would like more information, please contact Claims Board Administrator Laura Salazar at [lzsalar@counsel.lacounty.gov](mailto:lzsalar@counsel.lacounty.gov) or Management Specialist Raina Mey at [rmey@counsel.lacounty.gov](mailto: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 Item(s) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

- a. Steve Medina v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV20858

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in an altercation with a Probation Department employee serving as a poll-worker; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$100,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. Non-Litigated Claims of Mary Borillo, Aiza Aloria, and Mary Aloria

These inverse condemnation claims against the Department of Public Works contend that Claimants' property was damaged by sewage backflow due to a mainline blockage; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$76,195.52.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- c. Pauline Der Mesrobian Yacoubian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV02775

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff sustained injuries when she tripped and fell on an uneven dirt sidewalk in unincorporated Altadena; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$55,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- d. Tomas Lara Xochitla v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV16326

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$98,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- e. Estate of Amanda Bews, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-09775 and  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24CMCV00666

These federal and state wrongful death lawsuits stem from the death of an inmate and allege negligence and failure to summon medical care; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$400,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- f. Melba Ortega v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-03687

This lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was subjected to disability discrimination, excessive force, and unlawful arrest; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$485,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- g. Gabriela Koutantos, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-08592

This lawsuit alleges excessive force, unreasonable search, and seizure arising out of a traffic stop conducted by Sheriff's Department deputies; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$900,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- h. Valeria Guaman, a minor, et al. v. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV36635

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiffs allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$690,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- i. Ana Gamez and Jung Kim v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV21176

This lawsuit involves allegations that employees of the Sheriff's Department were subjected to discrimination and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$2,400,000.

- j. Jodi Michelle Link v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV12873

This lawsuit alleges that an employee of the District Attorney's Office was subjected to retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$850,000.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. Adjournment.

## **CASE SUMMARY**

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

CASE NAME	Steve Medina v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV20858
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	June 27, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Probation Department; Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 100,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	HALEH SHEKARCHIAN, ESQ. Law Offices of Haleh Shekarchian
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MICHAEL J. GORDON, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On September 6, 2021, an altercation occurred between Plaintiff and an employee of the Probation Department who was working at a County Voting Center at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino. Plaintiff alleges the incident caused injuries for which he seeks compensation.</p> <p>Given the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$100,000 is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 31,605
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 6,678

## **CASE SUMMARY**

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

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claims of Mary Borillo, Aiza Aloria, and Mary Aloria
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 76,195.52
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Joseph A. Langton Principal Deputy County Counsel Litigation Monitoring Division
NATURE OF CASE	These claims arise from a sewage backflow causing property damage. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full settlement of the claims are warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Pauline Der Mesrobian Yacoubian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23AHCV02775
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 29, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 55,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	LEON KLAYMAN, ESQ. Haig B. Kazandjian, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA A. MCCAVERY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from an incident that occurred at 11:00 p.m., on November 1, 2022, when Plaintiff was leaving a friend's home in the unincorporated area of Altadena. As Plaintiff exited her friend's gate, she stepped on an uneven patch of dirt sidewalk and tripped and fell causing injuries and damages.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 54,868
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,861

## **CASE SUMMARY**

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

CASE NAME	Tomas Lara Xochitla vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23STCV16326
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 13, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 98,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	DIANA L. PAZ, ESQ. Paz Law Firm, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA McCAVERTY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on October 23, 2022. Plaintiff claims he suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 10,505
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 7,455

## **CASE SUMMARY**

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

CASE NAME	Estate of Amanda Bews, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	24CMCV00666
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 3, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner Los Angeles County Department of Correctional Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$400,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	TIMOTHY A. SCOTT McKenzie Scott PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	CAROLINE S. CRADDOCK Senior Deputy County Counsel Health Services Division
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiffs allege that Amanda Bews died in custody as a result of alleged failure to prevent and treat alcohol withdrawal. Due to the uncertainties and the risks of litigation, the proposed settlement is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$138,620
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$17,759

## **CASE SUMMARY**

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

CASE NAME	Melba Ortega v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:24-CV-03687
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	January 16, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 485,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	VINCENT MILLER Law Offices of Vincent Miller
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MINAS SAMUELIAN Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$485,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Melba Ortega (Plaintiff), alleging disability discrimination, excessive force and unlawful arrest arising out of Plaintiff's detention and arrest.</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 \$485,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 66,356
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 7,852



## 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:	January 16, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Corrective Action Plan 2025-251</p> <p><b>Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.</b></p> <p>Based on multiple investigative reports, on January 16, 2021, Deputy One initiated a traffic stop on the Plaintiff's vehicle because it was speeding at 75 mph (visually) in a 55 mph zone. Deputy One asked the driver if he was on probation or parole, and the driver stated he was a convicted felon but off parole.</p> <p>Deputy One asked the driver why he was on prior parole and the driver responded that he used to be a part of a gang named Colonia and participated in criminal gang activity in the past. Deputy One stated since he had prior knowledge of Colonia gang members carrying weapons, he "ordered" the driver out of the vehicle to conduct a pat search for weapons.</p> <p>Deputy One then ordered the Plaintiff out of the vehicle to conduct a pat down search for weapons in which she responded verbally aggressively. Deputy One stated that moments before the use of force, the Plaintiff lunged towards the open passenger door; in fear, Deputy One had to use force to stop the Plaintiff from reaching inside the open car door for potential weapons. A use-of-force ensued.</p> <p>The use-of-force was thoroughly investigated. It was concluded all preventable measures were exercised and force used in the incident was necessary, minimal and reasonable for the circumstances.</p>

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

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One used force to detain the Plaintiff.

A **Department** root cause in this incident was Deputy One's failure to establish probable cause to remove, detain and conduct a pat down search of the Plaintiff.

A **Department** root cause was Deputy One should have called for backup prior to removing and searching multiple people in a vehicle.

A **Department** root cause was Deputy One was not wearing a body-worn camera. The Body Worn Camera Unit had not yet issued the cameras to Malibu/Lost Hills Station.

A **non-Department** root cause was the Plaintiff resisted Deputy One's orders during the detention

A **non-Department** root cause was the Plaintiff assaulted Deputy One by kicking him.

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

**Station-Level Force Investigation:**

At the conclusion of the investigation, it was concluded all preventable measures were exercised and force used in the incident was necessary, minimal and reasonable for the circumstances.

Subsequently, the Plaintiff was interviewed by I.C.I.B regarding this matter. On August 16, 2024, the Justice System Integrity Division added two additional charges to the pending criminal matter against Deputy One. The charges are, one count of Penal Code 149 – Assault by a Public Officer and one count of Penal Code 118.1 – Filing a False Police Report.

Deputy One pled Nolo Contendere to count one of Penal Code 149 pertaining to an unrelated matter. Additionally, Deputy One pled Nolo Contendere to count four of Penal Code 149 pertaining to this incident; the remaining charges were dismissed.

**Debriefing:**

A debriefing was conducted with Deputy One after the use of force occurred. Calling for backup prior to removing multiple people from a patrol vehicle and using alternate force options was discussed. Deputy One was reportedly receptive to the debriefing.

**Issuance of Body-Worn Cameras:**

As of March 17, 2021, all sworn personnel assigned to the station were issued a Body Worn Camera to ensure all public contacts are transparent.

The use of BWCs ensures reliable recording of contact enforcement and investigative contacts with the public.

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

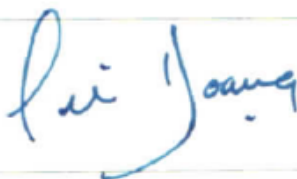
- ☐ Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.
- ☒ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

**Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department**

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)

Tri Hoang, Captain  
Risk Management Bureau

Signature:




Date:

12.16.25

Name: (Department Head)

Ron Kopperud, Chief  
North Patrol Division

Signature:



Date:

12/20/25

**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: Betty Karmirlian (Risk Management Inspector General)

Signature:



Date:

12/23/25

## **CASE SUMMARY**

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

CASE NAME	Gabriela Koutantos, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:23-CV-08592
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	October 12, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 900,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	BRIAN OLNEY Hadsell, Stormer, Renick & Dai, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MINAS SAMUELIAN Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$900,000 inclusive of attorneys' fees and costs, a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Gabriela Koutantos and Barbara Kappos (collectively Plaintiffs), alleging excessive force, unreasonable search, and seizure.</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 \$900,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 171,837
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 31,045

Case Name: Gabriela Koutantos v. County of Los Angeles, 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:	September 25, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>Summary Corrective Action Plan 2025-242</p> <p><b>Details in this document summarize the incident. The information provided is a culmination of various sources to provide an abstract of the incident.</b></p> <p>Based on multiple investigative reports, on September 25, 2022, a Commerce Community Service Officer observed a white Ford U-Haul cargo van, traveling northbound on a boulevard.</p> <p>A California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) database entry on the vehicle revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen. The officer confirmed this information in a broadcast to Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC).</p> <p>Deputies responded to the location where the U-Haul was traveling and conducted a felony traffic stop of the vehicle. The vehicle yielded and at gunpoint the deputies ordered the driver (the Plaintiff) to exit the vehicle. Once out of the vehicle, the deputies ordered the Plaintiff to a kneeling position, and she complied.</p> <p>The Plaintiff was searched by a female deputy, handcuffed and seated in the back seat of the patrol vehicle without incident. The vehicle had all the windows closed; however, the air conditioning was on during the duration of the Plaintiff's detention.</p> <p>Upon the completion of the deputy's investigation, it was determined the U-Haul cargo van was reported stolen on September 14, 2022, to an out of state Police Department. The out-of-state police department entered the incorrect license plate number into the CLETS system.</p> <p>The Plaintiff leased the U-Haul vehicle early on the morning of September 25, 2022.</p>

	As the Plaintiff was being detained, deputies were able to confirm with a U-Haul branch located at a separate address, the business failed to report it as recovered due to an incorrect license plate entry. The Plaintiff was released without incident and left the location.
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1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

- A **Department** root cause was deputy personnel conducted a high-risk felony traffic stop, with firearms drawn of the Plaintiff, who was the driver of a reported stolen vehicle under an incorrectly entered license plate number.
- A **non-Department** root cause was the vehicle was reported stolen to an out-of-state police department and input into a national law enforcement database with an incorrect license plate number.

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

**Employee Assessment:**

Based on an evaluation of each individual deputies' performance and personnel history, it was determined the employees involved were working within guidelines of what is expected from employees assigned to the patrol station and Department.

**Case Law Information:**

The Chinarian vs. City of Los Angeles, No. 21-56237, (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2024) is an LAPD incident, which has similar facts to this case.

Our Department's counsel argued that our deputies had ***more than reasonable suspicion*** in this current case.

**Department Policy Update:**

LASD's Field Operations Support Services (FOSS) unit is responsible for the creation and distribution of Newsletters, Field Operations Directives, and Officer Safety Bulletins affecting patrol personnel. FOSS is also responsible for updating the Department's Manual of Policy and Procedures and reviewing case laws that affect patrol functions.

At the time of this incident, deputies were in compliance with high-risk traffic stop tactics and procedures. It was appropriate for deputies to order the Plaintiff out of the vehicle with their firearms drawn.

However, on July 19, 2024, the policy regarding pointing firearms at potential suspects during high-risk traffic stops has changed.

Reportable Use-of-Force (PFP) involves a Department member intentionally pointing a firearm (pistol, rifle, or shotgun) at a person.

Drawing from the holster, a slung rifle or shotgun, or displaying a firearm while pointing it in a low ready or other safe position if not pointed at a person's body does not constitute a reportable PFP incident.

**Department Policy:**

LASD policy regarding felony or high-risk traffic stops currently remains the same. LASD FOSS confirmed the Chinarian vs City of Los Angeles Ninth Circuit case decision is under review by our Department.

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)

Tri Hoang, Captain  
Risk Management Bureau

Signature



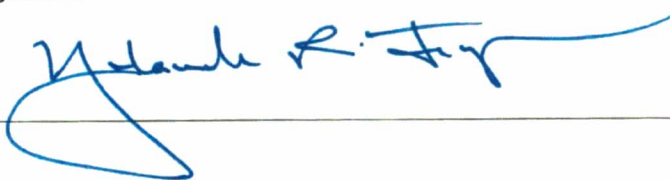
Date

11.25.25

Name: (Department Head)

Yolanda Figueroa, Chief  
Central Patrol Division

Signature:



Date:

12/1/2025

**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: Betty Karmirlian (Risk Management Inspector General)

Signature:

*Betty Karmirlian*

Date:

12/2/25

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Valeria Guaman, a Minor by Norma Alicia Ruiz-Pelayo, et al. vs. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
CASE NUMBER	21STCV36635
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 5, 2021
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ \$690,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	CHRISTOPHER B. DOLAN, ESQ ALLISON STONE, ESQ. Dolan Law Firm, PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LATASHA N. CORRY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On September 20, 2020, Plaintiffs were driving on Santa Fe Avenue in the City of Los Angeles. At the same time, Deputy Thomas was driving a patrol vehicle authorized Code 3. Deputy Thomas lost control of his vehicle resulting in a rear-end accident.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 109,593
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 80,452

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

December 15, 2025

#### 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 virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers, and Claims Board Administrator 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: Michael J. Gordon, Caroline Craddock, Edward Morrissey, Joseph Langton, Anna R. Reitano, Melissa McCaverty, and Sanjay A. Athalye appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Sergeant Shanese E. Winfrey, Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Captain Christopher R. Minott, Commander Terrence L. Bell, Captain Daniel W. Martin, Deputy Matthew C. Webster, and Captain Brian A. Tolmasoff appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Alvin Brewer appeared for the Fire Department. Nicole Ervin, Shawn Arrington, and Tracy Novak appeared for the Probation Department. Tim Pescatello appeared for the Office of the District Attorney. Christina Lee, and Lorena Moya-Rivas appeared for the Department of Children and Family Services. Jill Williams appeared for Carpenter, Rothans & Dumont. Raymond Sakai, and Oscar Bustos appeared for Lawrence, Beach, Allen & Choi P.C. Andrew Baum appeared for Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan and Shapiro. Tom Guterres appeared for Collins + Collins, 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 or on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

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

At 9:36 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(i).

#### 4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

No member of the public appeared in person or on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

At 11:34 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via video conference and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

##### a. Genesys Mata, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 25NWCV00562

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

##### Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$99,999.

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

**b. The Estate of Destiny Ortega, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22CMCV00447**

This wrongful death lawsuit seeks compensation for the death of an inmate in the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

**Action Taken:**

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

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

**c. Mercedes Torres, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 2:22-cv-04250**

This federal civil rights lawsuit seeks compensation for the death of an inmate in the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$1,450,000.

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

**d. Non-Litigated Claim of Daniel L. Kim**

This claim arises from injuries Claimant allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(d) in the amount of \$35,000.

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

**e. Non-Litigated Claims of Penate, et al.**

These claims arise from injuries Claimants allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Engine driven by a Fire Department employee.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$38,540.91.

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

**f. Kason Nelson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV00748**

This lawsuit seeks compensation for injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained during two use-of-force incidents while housed in juvenile custody within the Probation Department.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(f) in the amount of \$50,000.

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

**g. Kamryn Garbutt v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
United States District Court Case No. 2:24-cv-10947**

This federal civil rights lawsuit alleges that Plaintiff was assaulted by a probation officer and subsequently missed a court hearing, resulting in his over-detention.

**Action Taken:**

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

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

**h. Heriberto Ponce v. Claudia Rodriguera, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV21112**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving an employee of the District Attorney's Office.

**Action Taken:**

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

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

**i. Brian Gonzalez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00591**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(i) in the amount of \$325,000.

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

**5. Approval of the Minutes of the December 1, 2025, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the December 1, 2025, meeting.

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

**6. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura Salazar", written over a horizontal line.

Laura Z. Salazar  
Claims Board Administrator  
Office of the County Counsel