

THE **RECORDER**

TOP VERDICTS

June 28, 2010 | ESSENTIAL CALIFORNIA LEGAL CONTENT

California's Million Dollar Verdicts

**PLUS VERDICTS BY CASE TYPE, AND CALIFORNIA
EMPLOYMENT AND CONSTRUCTION SAMPLE CASES**

 **VERDICTSEARCH**

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RANK	CASE	DATE	COURT	TYPE OF ACTION	HEADLINES	PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL	AWARD
1	Marciano v. Fahs	7/27	Los Angeles	Intentional torts: defamation	Man said former workers stole; they claimed defamation	Alain Bonavida, Law Offices of Alain V. Bonavida R. Rex Parris, R. Rex Parris Law Firm	\$370,220,000
2	Auerbach Acquisition Associates Inc. v. Daily	7/13	Los Angeles	Contracts: fraud	Firm contended defendant concealed interest in company	Joel M. Kozberg of Kozberg & Bodell, LLP; Pierce H. O'Donnell of O'Donnell & Associates PC; Steven J. Aaronoff of O'Donnell & Associates PC; Richard A. Derevan of Snell & Wilmer LLP; Todd E. Lundell of Snell & Wilmer LLP; Jennifer A. Keller of The Keller Law Firm	\$350,000,000
3	Medtronic Inc. v. Aga Medical Corp.	8/5	Federal	Intellectual property	Medical device company sued rival for trademark infringement	Andrew N. Thomases of Dechert LLP; Ellen J. Wang of Dechert LLP; James J. Elacqua of Dechert LLP; Noemi C. Espinosa of Dechert LLP	\$57,807,189
4	Thomas v. Global Vision Products Inc.	11/20	Alameda	Consumer protection: false advertising	Class claimed false, misleading advertising related to hair product	L. Timothy Fisher of Bramson, Plutzik, Mahler & Birkhaeuser LLP; Anthony Vizzolo of Faruqi & Faruqi LLP; Christopher Marlborough of Faruqi & Faruqi LLP; Scott A. Bursor of Law Offices of Scott A. Bursor	\$50,024,611
5	Bianchi v. Demma	9/21	Santa Clara	Motor vehicle: multiple vehicle	Passenger sustained spastic quadriplegia following accident	Thomas W. Malone of Malone Law Office; Randall H. Scarlett of Scarlett Law Group	\$49,123,375
6	Sacramento Municipal Utility District v. Fru-con Construction Corp.	6/5	Sacramento	Contracts: breach of contract	Utility district claimed contractor at fault for excess project costs	Cecilia E. Rendon of Bright and Brown; James S. Bright of Bright and Brown; Maureen J. Bright of Bright and Brown; Andrew D. Bluth of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP; Erin C. Carroll of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP; John S. Poulos of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP	\$42,158,278
7	U.S. Department of Justice v. Merco Const. Engineers Inc.	9/30	Federal	Real property: trespass	Fire devastated national forest, decimated frog population	Abraham Meltzer of United States Attorney's Office; Carla A. Ford of United States Attorney's Office	\$36,437,145
8	Hansen Medical Inc. v. Luna Innovations Inc.	4/21	Santa Clara	Contracts: breach of contract	Robotic catheter systems maker said company shared trade secrets	Arturo J. Gonzalez of Morrison & Foerster LLP; Bryan Wilson of Morrison & Foerster LLP; Harold J. McElhinny of Morrison & Foerster LLP; Jana G. Gold of Morrison & Foerster LLP	\$36,303,643
9	Kelemen v. Alfa Laval Inc.	10/20	Los Angeles	Products liability: asbestos	Man blamed mesothelioma on exposure to company's products	Ethan A. Horn of Simon, Eddins & Greenstone, LLP; Jordan Blumenfeld-James of Simon, Eddins & Greenstone, LLP	\$35,333,209
10	Louis Vuitton Malletier s.A. V. Akanoc Solutions Inc.	8/28	Federal	Intellectual property: lanham act	Internet providers allowed sale of counterfeit goods: retailer	Annie S. Wang of J. Andrew Coombs, A PC; J. Andrew Coombs of J. Andrew Coombs, A PC	\$32,400,000
11	1800 South Maple Street, llc v. Allied Property and Casualty Insurance co.	6/9	San Diego	Insurance: Coverage	Plaintiffs asserted insurance entities had duty to defend	Donald English of English & Gloven APC; C. Brant Noziska of Rockwood & Noziska LLP; Charles L. Fanning of Rockwood & Noziska LLP; Neal H. Rockwood of Rockwood & Noziska LLP	\$28,782,917
12	Tan v. Arellano	10/13	San Diego	Motor vehicle: intersection	Plaintiff sustained severe brain injury in intersection collision	Christopher E. Angelo of Angelo & DiMonda LLP	\$24,804,135
13	Nelsen v. Hillyard Inc.	10/16	San Bernardino	Motor vehicle: Rear-ender	Plaintiff paralyzed on right side after high-speed rear-ender	Brian J. Panish of Panish Shea & Boyle LLP; Spencer R. Lucas of Panish Shea & Boyle LLP	\$21,067,093
14	Gomez v. General Motors Corp.	7/2	Riverside	Motor vehicle: Rear-ender	Driver, passengers injured after their vehicle hit 'type a' dike	Arnoldo Casillas of Moreno Becerra & Casillas PC Danillo J. Becerra of Moreno Becerra & Casillas PC Gregory W. Moreno of Moreno, Becerra & Casillas	\$19,671,556
15	Pierson v. Ford Motor Co.	5/27	Federal	Products Liability: Design Defect	Musician rendered quadriplegic in rollover accident on highway	James Eloi Doyle of Doyle Restrepo Harvin & Robbins, LLP; Daniel Dell'Osso of The Brandt Law Firm; Kevin F. Quinn of Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire	\$18,349,391
16	City of Modesto v. Dow Chemical Co.	5/18	San Francisco	Products Liability: Design Defect	City claimed PERC polluted well water, groundwater, soil	Duane C. Miller of Miller, Axline & Sawyer	\$18,320,000
17	Tealoff v. Forest River Inc.	4/1	San Bernardino	Contracts: Breach of Contract	Top salesperson said company never paid promised commission	Henry H. Gonzalez of Baute & Tidus LLP; Jeffrey A. Tidus of Baute & Tidus LLP; Mark D. Baute of Baute & Tidus LLP	\$17,550,000
18	Anmari Electronics v. Pacific Bell Directory	6/22	Alameda	Contracts: Breach of Contract	Advertising sales were proper, appropriate, defense argued	Luke Ellis of Gillin, Jacobson, Ellis & Larsen; Dan Mulligan of Jenkins Mulligan & Gabriel LLP; Larry W. Gabriel of Jenkins Mulligan & Gabriel LLP; Barry R. Himmelstein of Loeff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP; Michael Schrag of Meade & Schrag LLP; Tyler R. Meade of Meade & Schrag LLP; Steven M. Tindall of Rukin Hyland Doria & Tindall LLP	\$17,350,217
19	Woodard v. Alfa Laval Inc.	2/2	Los Angeles	Toxic Torts: Asbestos	Plaintiff with mesothelioma sued makers of asbestos-containing products	Gary M. Paul of Waters Kraus & Paul, LLP; Jillian Rice of Waters Kraus & Paul, LLP; Kevin Loew of Waters Kraus & Paul, LLP; Daniel Wasserberg of Williams Kherkher Hart Boundas LLP	\$16,925,000
20	Strange v. Entercom Sacramento, LLC	10/29	Sacramento	Recreation	Radio contestant died from water intoxication, survivors said	Robert B. Bale of Dreyer Babich Buccola Callahan & Wood, LLP; Roger A. Dreyer of Dreyer Babich Buccola Callahan & Wood, LLP; Stacey L. Roberts of Dreyer Babich Buccola Callahan & Wood, LLP; Harvey R. Levine of Levine Steinberg & Miller	\$16,577,118
21	Gottesman v. Cathedral Oaks Tennis	4/27	Santa Barbara	Recreation: Swimming Pool	Boy drowned in pool at summer camp, workers did nothing; parents	A. Barry Cappello of Cappello & Noel LLP; Leila J. Noel of Cappello & Noel LLP; Dugan P. Kelley of Cappello & Noel, LLP; Matthew M. Clarke of Cappello & Noel, LLP	\$16,226,504
22	Elie v. Smith	8/3	San Mateo	Contracts: Breach of Contract	Former CEO said former COO owed him millions of dollars	Allonn E. Levy of Hopkins & Carley; Dori L. Yob of Hopkins & Carley; Jeffrey E. Essner of Hopkins & Carley; Liv Mills-Carlisle of Hopkins & Carley	\$14,000,000
23	Rogers v. Storms	12/23	Tulare	Motor Vehicle: Left Turn	Teen sustained hemiparesis, brain injury in head-on crash	Ryan D. Harris of Harris Personal Injury Lawyers; Robert Hamparyan of The Gomez Law Firm; Jeremiah Lowe of Walters & Caietti, APC	\$13,284,363
24	Cundiff v. Alfa Laval	5/6	Los Angeles	Products Liability: Design Defect	Former machinist's mate with mesothelioma blamed asbestos products	Gary M. Paul of Waters Kraus & Paul, LLP; Jillian Rice of Waters Kraus & Paul, LLP; Marc I. Willick of Waters Kraus & Paul, LLP	\$12,006,000
25	Citizens of Humanity LLC v. Caitac Corp.	1/14	Los Angeles	Contracts: Breach of Contract	Jeans manufacturer claimed distributor harmed its brand	Gary A. Freedman of Law Offices of Gary A. Freedman; John A. Schwimmer of Sussman Shank LLP	\$11,300,000
26	Brighton Collectibles Inc. v. Marc Chantal USA Inc.	4/17	Federal	Intellectual Property: Trademarks	Fashion company claimed rival infringed distinctive trade dress	Keith J. Wesley of Browne Woods George LLP; Peter W. Ross of Browne Woods George LLP; Steven W. Winton of Winton Larson & Solecki LLP	\$10,849,244
27	Mora v. Minster Machine Co.	9/2	Los Angeles	Products Liability: Industrial Machinery	Press operator had to undergo arm amputation after accident	Carl Kremer of Wesierski & Zurek LLP; Frank J. D'Oro of Wesierski & Zurek LLP	\$10,458,434
28	Plikaytis v. Roth	10/8	San Diego	Employment: Wrongful Termination	Deft destroyed pltf's income, squeezed her from project	George L. de la Flor of Law Offices of George L. de la Flor	\$9,219,805
29	Rogers v. State of California	3/27	Monterey	Motor Vehicle: Dangerous Condition	Biker paralyzed after crashing into wild boar on state roadway	Charles R. Keller of Fenton & Keller PC; Lawrence E. Biegel of Law Offices of Lawrence E. Biegel; Vicki Schermer-Kleinkopf of Law Offices of Lawrence E. Biegel	\$8,618,859
30	Reynolds v. Hamilton Materials Inc.	6/15	San Francisco	Products Liability: Asbestos	Former drywalller blamed mesothelioma on work with joint compound	Andrew Chew of Brayton Purcell LLP; Gilbert L. Purcell of Brayton Purcell LLP; Halie B. Albert of Brayton Purcell LLP	\$8,468,759
31	Bisby v. Weitzel	1/23	San Diego	Construction: Accidents	Worker's electric shock blamed on low-hanging power lines	Gerald B. Singleton of Law Offices of Gerald B. Singleton	\$8,234,522
32	Nolen v. Foster Wheeler	1/29	Los Angeles	Toxic Torts: Asbestos	Plaintiff claimed on-the-job asbestos exposure caused mesothelioma	Barrett Naman of DeLuca & Nemeroff, LLP; Brent Zadorozny of Waters Kraus & Paul, LLP	\$8,021,887
33	Zhao v. Los Angeles Dealers Auto Auction	1/16	Los Angeles	Motor Vehicle: Pedestrian	Trespassing pedestrian struck by car in auto auction parking lot	Michael Alder of Alder Law, PC; Ronald Beck of Perona, Langer, Beck & Serbin, APC	\$7,858,499
34	Arellano v. Fillmore Convalescent Center	12/11	Ventura	Elder Law	Elderly nursing home resident was beaten by employee	Gregory L. Johnson of Law Offices of Gregory L. Johnson	\$7,750,000
35	Campan v. Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	8/28	Los Angeles	Medical Malpractice: Delayed Diagnosis	Preemie's infection not treated fast enough, parents claimed	John F. Denove of Cheong, Denove, Rowell & Bennett; Diane M. Corwin of Law Offices of Diane M. Corwin	\$7,379,566