

Large Claims Settled Against Public Entities

Entity	ST	Entity Type	Amount	Outcome	Date of Loss	Settlement / Verdict Date	Description
Dana Point	CA	City	\$50,000,000	Settlement	4/8/2006	11/27/2007	Alleged dangerous condition of public property. Two women, Carol Daniel, 42, and Stacy Neria, 35, both mothers of three who live in San Clemente, were left permanently disabled quadriplegics after being struck by a car on April 8, 2006. Driver was jailed and had no coverage. Settled for \$50 million .
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey	NY	City	\$47,500,000	Settlement	9/11/2001	10/18/2010	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey: New York, NY: Oct -18-10. Plaintiffs who allege they were injured or suffered illness in the response and cleanup of the September 11 terror attacks have reached a settlement with The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey . \$47.5 Million Settlement Approved for September 11 Plaintiffs. Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein signed an order last week providing preliminary approval to the \$47.5 million settlement, which must be approved by the Port Authority's board of commissioners. The agreement is another step forward in the effort to settle claims by some 10,000 plaintiffs. OCT-18-10: Judge OKs \$47.5 Million Settlement between Port Authority and 9/11 Plaintiffs
New York City	NY	City	\$33,000,000	Settlement	10/4/2007	3/23/2010	A class action lawsuit alleging that women were forced to undergo gynecological exams in New York City jails has been settled for \$33 million . The lawsuit was filed on behalf of people who were arrested on misdemeanor drugs and weapons charges, jumping turnstiles, failing to pay child support, shoplifting and trespassing, and who subsequently underwent strip searches. The terms of the settlement would provide payments of \$1,800 and \$2,900 per victim, depending on the number of people who respond and qualify. The two female lead plaintiffs will each receive \$20,000 for injury and suffering. The case included people arrested, but not convicted, between July 15, 1999, and Oct. 4, 2007. The court has already ruled that the practice violated the prisoners' constitutional rights.
Camden County	NJ	County	\$31,295,007	Verdict	12/23/2004	10/17/2008	A Camden County jury returned a unanimous verdict for \$31,295,007 to Nicolas M. Anderson against the County of Camden, New Jersey for their failure to repair a highway and guardrail that they knew were dangerous. On December 23, 2004, 18-year-old Nicholas M. Anderson was driving his car on Raritan Avenue near its intersection with Third Street in Waterford Township, Atco, NJ. A vehicle traveling the opposite direction entered Anderson's lane of traffic. When he swerved to the right to avoid a head-on collision, he went onto the shoulder which was approximately six inches lower than the highway. Being unable to swerve back onto the highway because of the drop, his car went out of control and hit the guardrail. Upon impact, the guardrail penetrated the driver's side door and severed Anderson's right leg. He also sustained major injuries to his left arm rendering it nearly unusable.
Metrolink	CA	Transit	\$30,000,000	Settlement	1/26/2005	10/20/2009	10/15/09: Metrolink has spent \$30 million to settle most of the lawsuits arising from the 2005 Glendale train crash that killed 11 and injured about 180. Among those settlements are two injury cases, one for \$5 million and the other for \$3.8 million, and two wrongful death cases in which the heirs will receive \$3.5 million for each claim. One of those cases involves payments to the family of a sheriff's deputy killed in the crash. Most of the settlements were far more modest, with one person receiving \$1,000 and many settling for less than \$50,000 All but about a dozen of the approximately 150 claims and lawsuits filed against Metrolink have been settled, and the remaining cases are expected to be resolved in the next month. The Jan. 26, 2005, collision, which was the deadliest in its history until last year's Chatsworth crash in which 25 people were killed and 135 injured.

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Walnut Creek	CA	City	\$27,750,000	Verdict	7/6/2000	5/6/2003	\$27.75 million verdict for Scott Shropshire a 20-year-old state diving champion who was rendered a quadriplegic when he collided with a synchronized swimmer during diving practice in a public pool. The City of Walnut Creek, owner and operator of the pool, rented its dive pool to a diving team and a synchronized swimming team to hold practices at the same time without any means of separating the two inconsistent uses. The diver did not see a 15-year-old synchronized swimmer push off the wall under the diving board toward his landing area just as he began his dive. He struck the girl's hip and was left a quadriplegic. The girl suffered bruises. The pool now uses floating lane lines to separate the two groups. The verdict was identified as the 12th largest in California and the 67th largest in the United States in 2003.
MTA New York	NY	Transit	\$27,500,000	Verdict	11/4/2005	4/27/2009	A 45-year old woman who was hit by a bus and subsequently underwent amputation of her left leg has been awarded a \$27.5 million settlement by a jury. Gloria Aguilar, 45, who had to have her leg amputated at the groin and has worn a prosthetic leg ever since. The verdict is on appeal.
State of Minnesota	MN	State	\$25,000,000	Settlement	8/1/2007	4/1/2009	Minnesota reached final settlements with all 179 eligible victims of the 8/1/2007 interstate 35 bridge collapse in Minneapolis. Settlements ranged from \$4,500 to each of five survivors to more than \$2.2 million for a woman who required extensive therapy for brain damage. Five other settlements were over \$1 million. The attorney who led the court-appointed panel administering the state's \$36.6 million compensation fund, said settlements covered both survivors of the collapse and family members of those killed. The bridge collapse during the evening rush hour killed 13 people and injured 145. The NTSB concluded that the bridge collapsed because a crucial steel gusset plate connecting bridge beams was half as thick as it should have been due to a 1960s design flaw. A group of 117 survivors and families of victims dispute that. They contend a beam buckled due to the heat that day, the heavy load of resurfacing materials on the bridge, and poor maintenance. That theory gives them legal grounds for suing the consultants and contractors.
Illinois DOT	IL	State	\$23,838,668	Verdict	4/19/2004	9/10/2009	On 4/19/04 Andrzej Chraca, then 32, was driving a sport utility vehicle when he was struck by Steve Miles in a state Department of Transportation utility truck. Chraca suffered a T-12 burst fracture which rendered him an incomplete paraplegic. He is unable to walk without leg braces and the use of canes or a walker. Miles also claimed injuries and sued Chraca and his employer, United Woodworking, for vehicular negligence. The cases were consolidated and tried together. Chraca and Miles both claimed that they had the green light. The jury found Miles 95 percent negligent and Chraca 5 percent negligent. Chraca was awarded \$25,093,335 which was reduced to \$23,838,668, the highest verdict for a paraplegic in Cook County.
Santa Monica	CA	City	\$21,000,000	Settlement	7/16/2003	5/21/2008	The city and the elderly driver have been blamed for the crash that killed 10 people on July 16, 2003. The settlement eliminates the risks and difficulties of trial and allows the victims, their families and the city to put this tragedy behind them and move forward." Driver Weller (now 91)was convicted last year of 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence
Chicago	IL	City	\$21,000,000	Verdict	1/1/1989	6/22/2009	Juan Johnson who spent eleven and a half years in prison for a murder he did not commit was awarded \$21 million in a wrongful conviction case. The 39-year-old says he was framed by a Chicago police detective who specialized in gang investigations. Johnson was convicted and eventually acquitted of beating to death a man with a two-by-four. The city says Johnson was part of a gang back then and is currently a gang member. Johnson's lawyers say that is not the case. Meantime, Northwestern University's Center on Wrongful Convictions is investigating more than 40 alleged frame-ups by Detective Guevara

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Nassau County	NY	County	\$19,600,000	Verdict	3/11/2004	2/23/2010	A man who lost a leg as a result of being struck down by a police car has been awarded just over \$19.6 million by the jury hearing his case. The award included \$3 million in punitive damages against Nassau County police officer Karl Snelders, who, allegedly drove onto a sidewalk and bowled over Thomas Hartmann, the suit's plaintiff, deliberately. Hartmann, who was reportedly being pursued on a harassment charge, claimed that the officer didn't stop after striking him, continuing forward so that one of the vehicle's rear wheels also struck him. The police officer testified that it appeared as Hartmann had a weapon, and threatened to shoot the officer. The jury found Snelders' actions excessive, and awarded in favor of Hartmann.
Florida State Child Welfare Dept.	FL	State	\$18,200,000	Settlement	1/11/2001	4/1/2008	Child welfare workers failed to heed warnings from doctors and nurses who treated 9-year-old Marissa Amora, for abuse related injuries. The suit stated that the 9-year-old girl sustained irreversible brain damage from abuse by her mother and her mother's live-in-boyfriend. Marissa was severely beaten at age 2, a month after abuse reports were made to DCF. They said the mother spanked her sick baby in her hospital bed. She called her 2-year-old daughter "hardheaded." Hospital workers alerted child abuse investigators at the Department of Children and Families. Increasingly insistent, they asked the state not to send the child home until a full investigation could be done. That didn't happen. A month later, the girl was beaten nearly to death. Investigators believe she was held by her feet and shaken, probably by her mother's boyfriend.
Half Moon Bay	CA	City	\$18,000,000	Judgment	1/1/1993	12/1/2007	Inverse Condemnation. City's accidental creation of wetlands leads to finding of physical taking and a \$36.8 million Judgment against the City. Attorneys for Keenan, who won a \$36.8 million judgment against Half Moon Bay, have filed for legal fees and other costs that add \$3.5 million to the bill. Together with a previously granted request for about \$1.3 million in interest, the Beachwood decision stood to cost Half Moon Bay \$41.6 million. The City Council negotiated an \$18 million settlement with the developer.
South Gate	CA	City	\$18,000,000	Settlement	7/1/2002	10/7/2009	The city of South Gate has paid out \$18 million to settle lawsuits filed by a group of 16 officers who said they faced racially-motivated discrimination, harassment and retaliation in the aftermath of the ouster of a Latino police official in 2002,
Lee's Summit	MO	City	\$16,000,000	Verdict	1/1/1999	9/9/2008	A jury awarded \$16 million to Theodore White, a Missouri man who spent more than five years in prison on child molestation charges, for which he was acquitted in 2005. The jury awarded \$14 million in actual damages and \$2 million in punitive damages. The court ruled that the man's ex-wife and a police officer, who were planning to marry each other, conspired to violate his fair-trial rights. His lawyers argued that the police officer read but intentionally neglected to seize the alleged molestation victim's diary, which could have been critical in the man's defense. The police officer, who is still actively working for a Kansas police department, could be responsible for paying most of the judgment, but the city he works for will wind up with the bill after it settled its part of the case by agreeing to cover any judgment against the cop.
Will County	IL	County	\$15,500,000	Settlement	6/1/2004	3/1/2008	Will County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kevin Fox a few months after the incident, and charged him with his daughter's murder. Following a DNA report, Kevin Fox was released, as the DNA found on the girl's body was shown not to be his. Fox and his wife sued Will County and five detectives, accusing them of framing him for the crime. Sources stated that the two sides had reached a settlement agreement, in which the parents of slain 3-year-old Riley Fox got \$15.5 million to resolve their lawsuit.

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Winnebago County	IL	County	\$15,500,000	Settlement	1/14/2006	9/20/2009	Winnebago County will pay \$15.5 million to settle lawsuits brought after a sheriff's deputy drove his squad car into a passenger vehicle, killing two people and leaving a third with brain damage. Aaron Bachman, 21, and DJ Bachman, 15, were killed on Jan. 14, 2006, when the car they were riding in, driven by their sister, Kori, 19, was broadsided by a squad car driven by Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputy.
Hanford	CA	City	\$15,000,000	Settlement	5/31/2005	5/1/2008	Christopher Chan (14) was riding his bicycle when he was hit by an automobile at the intersection of 11th Avenue and Pepper Drive on May 31, 2005. Chan now has no short-term memory, has the verbal ability of a 6-year-old, focuses on simple tasks for only 15 minutes at a time and needs an attendant to help him with his everyday physical needs. Jupiter Chan stated that the ill fated intersection was hazardous to school children crossing to and from school due to its physical makeup, no effective controls and no signage or crossing guard. He alleged that the municipality knew the street intersection was dangerous, agreed to fix the dangerous condition and then did not act to correct the problem. The intersection posed a hazard to school children who cross the intersection twice daily on their way to and from school. Hanford officials stated that the city was aware of these dangerous conditions but did not correct them. Settled for \$15 million .
Michigan Dept. of Correction	MI	State	\$15,000,000	Verdict	1/1/1996	2/1/2008	Ten female inmates brought a lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1996, alleging that they were raped and sexually harassed by male staff in a Michigan state prison. A jury awarded \$15 million to the 10 female inmates, resolving the inmate abuse lawsuit. It is estimated that once interest is factored in, the women could get about \$30 million.
Chicago Board of Education	IL	School District	\$14,600,000	Settlement	12/14/1992	2/25/2010	After 17 years of litigation, a \$14.6 million settlement has been reached in a trampoline injury lawsuit filed against the Chicago Board of Education and a youth center. Ryan Murray was 13 years old when he became a quadriplegic in 1992 after breaking his neck while performing a flip on a mini-trampoline. Chicago Youth Centers was conducting a tumbling class at Bryn Mawr School at the time. Trampolines had been banned in school districts nationwide 10 to 15 years before the incident. Attorneys for Murray, now 30, claimed the Board of Education should never have allowed the trampolines in the school. The insurer for Chicago Youth Centers will pay \$2 million of the settlement. The Board of Education will pay the rest.
Unidentified School District	CA	School District	\$14,000,000	Settlement		10/6/2009	Injured Teen Awarded \$14 Million . A 13-year old boy who suffered an ischemic stroke, and resulting and resulting aphasia and behavioral problems, has won his lawsuit against the school district and the gym teacher, alleging that they were responsible for his injury and resulting health issues. The boy was injured during a game of dodgeball when he was hit in the head by a volleyball thrown by a fellow student from some 40 feet away. The boy fell to the floor and hit his head. The suit claimed that lighter foam centered balls should have been used, and that the gym teacher in charge should not have been supervising various activities simultaneously. The settlement is a structured so the plaintiff will recover an estimated \$96 million throughout his life.
Los Angeles County MTA	CA	Transit	\$13,820,000	Verdict	6/25/2005	6/1/2007	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Verdict: \$13,820,000 . On 6/25/05 Joseph Garcia was a 56-year old unemployed passenger on an LACMTA bus, when that bus struck a parked car transportation carrier. Mr. Garcia was thrown around the interior of the bus and suffered a subdural hematoma resulting in severe brain damage and hemiplegia of his left side. As a result, Mr. Garcia suffers from permanent injury to his brain, among other serious injuries. He now requires 24-hour attendant care for the rest of his life and the Court appointed a conservator to handle his financial affairs. The MTA's own rule states that a bus must maintain right-side clearance of 3-4 1/2 feet from parked vehicles.

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South Carolina State Ports Authority	SC	State	\$13,200,000	Settlement	11/22/2004	10/1/2007	An empty shipping container broke loose in mid-air, plunged 50 feet and bounced onto plaintiff's parked Ford Explorer. Though he survived, family members say Clarkin's injuries were both physical and mental. His legs, back and neurological system were all impaired after the incident. Clarkin's injury was the fourth time in five months that year that a dockworker had been injured or killed at a state-run port terminal. In a settlement reached, Michael Clarkin and his family settled their suit for \$13.2 million , making it the largest personal injury settlement in state history. SPA spokespersons claimed that the equipment failure was blamed on a design defect that was corrected later.
New York City	NY	City	\$12,750,000	Settlement	1981-1984	6/1/2007	A New York family whose 19 children experienced lead poisoning living in subsidized housing filed a lawsuit against the city, alleging that the city failed to inform them about the effects of lead poisoning. Rachele Scott's two children, three siblings and 14 nieces and nephews suffered permanent damage from lead poisoning.
State of Alabama	AL	State	\$12,500,000	Settlement	1/1/2001	5/7/2007	A dozen girls claimed that they were abused at a youth detention center near Birmingham, Alabama. The allegations of sexual and physical abuse at the state Department of Youth Services detention center in Chalkville surfaced in 2001, eventually leading to fifteen employees being fired or resigning voluntarily. The suit was filed against DYS and some of its employees in 2001, followed by several other suits with the dozen girls suing in various state and federal courts. The girls were minors at the time of the alleged abuse, but were 18 at the time of filing suit. In a settlement reached, the state agreed to pay \$12.5 million to settle the sexual abuse lawsuits against it. Each of 49 plaintiffs will receive \$255,102 from the settlement, and each must pay expenses and attorney fees from their share
Ventura County	CA	County	\$12,500,000	Settlement	9/16/2006	11/3/2007	The family of Glenn Garvin, a Thousand Oaks dental surgeon, brought a wrongful death lawsuit against Ventura County, after the 49-year-old endodontist was killed in 2006 by an elderly motorist.
Washington D.O.T	WA	State	\$12,000,000	Verdict	7/28/2007	10/20/2010	A King County jury awarded \$30 million to 30 year old Koti Hu, who was left paralyzed after his car was struck by a pickup on an Interstate 405 onramp on 7/28/07. He is paralyzed from the chest down. Since the crash he has moved home to be cared for by his parents. He sued the owner of the truck as well as the state DOT over the design of the onramp. The suit focused on the poor design of the metered onramp. The stop line is in shadows and is visible to drivers only after coming around a 180-degree curve. The jury found the company that owns the truck was 60% responsible for the accident, with the DOT responsible for the remaining \$12 million
Metra Transit, Chicago	IL	Transit	\$11,000,000	Settlement	9/1/2005	11/12/2008	Two wrongful death suits brought against Chicago's public transit system, Metra, have been settled this week for \$11 million . The suits stem from the deaths of college student Jane Cuthbert and research technician Allison Walsh who were killed in September 2005 when a train derailed. More than 80 additional passengers were injured.
State of Virginia	VA	State	\$11,000,000	Settlement	4/16/2007	6/17/2008	A Virginia Circuit Court has approved an \$11 million settlement for families of most of the victims in last year's Virginia Tech massacre. Families of 24 victims are set to receive \$100,000 each, the maximum allowed by Virginia's liability limit, while 18 people injured during the rampage will receive up to the \$100,000 maximum, based on injuries sustained. A \$1.9 million hardship fund is part of the settlement, from which families of those killed can seek additional money. Additionally, the settlement included attorney's fees and a fund for charities. The settlement is said to avoid a court battle over whether anyone but the gunman was to blame.

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Sacramento	CA	City	\$10,000,000	Settlement	12/10/2006	8/31/2008	Police ride-along accident: 34-year-old Brian Jackson was on a ride-along with a Sacramento police officer and were involved in a violent crash. Jeremy Rattcliffe lost control of his patrol car and collided with a utility pole. Rattcliffe was speeding up to catch up to a reckless driver, but had not activated his emergency lights or siren. Another car pulled in front of the police vehicle, forcing the officer to swerve. Brian Jackson sustained internal injuries and brain trauma. Settled for \$10 million .
State of California	CA	State	\$10,000,000	Settlement	5/1/2007	9/24/2009	A Santa Clara, Calif. jury awarded \$49 million in damages to Drew Bianchi, a 21-year old college student who was on his way to a camping trip when two trucks collided and one struck the car he was riding in, causing him traumatic brain injuries. His injuries necessitate round-the-clock medical care. Bianchi vehicle was struck by a Peterbilt truck driven by Samuel Bimbela. He added that The jury awarded \$3.4 million in past medical expenses, \$27.6 million in future medical expenses, \$4.5 million for future lost wages, and \$13.5 million in general damages. The defendants are jointly and severally liable for the special damages and severally liable for the general damages. In a five-week trial in front of Judge Carrie Zepeda, the jury found that Bimbela was 60 percent at fault, Gordon Trucking and its truck driver, Michael Demma, were 35 percent at fault, and the state of California was 5 percent at fault. The state settled with the plaintiff for \$10 million at a settlement conference in July, 2009.
Warren County	NY	County	\$10,000,000	Settlement	7/7/2005	10/4/2007	Philip Cote brought a lawsuit against Warren County after he lost his arm in a motorcycle accident on July 7, 2005, when Cote's motorcycle collided with a UPS truck. Cote claimed that as a result of the crash, he sustained horrific injuries, including a metal rod in his leg, which stops him from being able to perform simple chores. He also lost one arm, which has come in the way of his finding a sustainable job. As part of a settlement reached, Cote was awarded a \$10 million civil settlement, making him the recipient of the largest civil court payout in Warren County history.
San Dimas	CA	City	\$9,000,000	Settlement	4/8/2005	9/28/2007	The family of Samantha Palumbo brought a lawsuit against the city of San Dimas after their teenage daughter suffered a severe brain injury. She was driving alone on April 8, 2005, lost control of her car and slammed into a city-built fence made of wooden logs. Parts of the fence pierced Samantha's car and her head, tearing away part of her brain. Samantha Palumbo was a top student and beauty pageant winner before the accident; she has since battled to regain basic abilities. Now 18, she communicates with hand signals, largely uses a wheelchair and relies on 24-hour care provided by her parents. In a settlement reached, the family will receive \$9 million as part of a deal reached with the city.
State of California	CA	State	\$9,000,000	Settlement	3/3/2006	3/6/2008	The state has agreed to pay \$9 million to a teenage girl who lost both legs after crashing her car into a broken guardrail along Interstate 10 on March 3, 2006. Priscilla Contreras was 16 when a jagged metal railing ripped through the driver's side door and rendered the high school senior a double amputee. The protective barrier had been damaged in an accident the previous day and was awaiting repair. Contreras was driving home on Interstate 10 in Los Angeles when she lost control of her car and hit the railing. The cause of the accident was never established. The Contreras family filed a law suit against the state and Caltrans, blaming the agency for creating a dangerous condition, failing to repair it, and failure to warn drivers of the dangerous situation. In addition to below knee amputations of both legs, she sustained a fractured pelvis, back injuries, neuropathy, TBI, severe emotional distress, and PTSD. The case settled on the morning of trial.

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Cook County	IL	County	\$9,000,000	Settlement	10/17/2003	4/22/2008	A series of wrongful death lawsuits were brought against Cook County by victims of a 2003 fire at the county's downtown Chicago administration building that killed six people. The lawsuit named six defendants, the county being one of them. A settlement agreement was reached in the case, in which the county agreed to pay \$9 million to resolve the lawsuits. Court records indicate that Aargus Security, a security company settled for \$11 million, and the other four defendants settled for a total of \$6 million. Reports of the disaster showed that six workers died after they became trapped in smoke-filled stairways.
East Bay Municipal Utility District Authority	CA	Utility	\$8,000,000	Settlement	11/10/2004	4/5/2007	The Walnut Creek pipeline explosion in 2004 killed five men who were constructing a water main for the East Bay Municipal Utility District Authority. Matamoros Welding employee Israel Hernandez was one of the men killed. As companies involved in the explosion are settling lawsuits with the deceased's families, Hernandez' daughters stand in line to receive an \$8 million settlement from the EBMUD. He had a daughter in Mexico, Mariel Hernandez, now 19, and two other daughters, now 4 and 6, from a second relationship in California. Superior Court Judge David Flinn divided the total settlement by ordering that the local Hernandez daughters receive \$7.82 million and Mariel Hernandez receive \$180,000.
San Diego	CA	City	\$8,000,000	Settlement	1/1/2006	9/16/2008	A Superior Court jury ordered the city of San Diego to pay \$8 million in damages to Pablo Gomez, who fell into a coma after allegedly being knocked to the ground by a San Diego police officer during an altercation in January of 2006. Gomez suffered a five-inch skull fracture and fell into a coma for about a month after the incident. Although the courtroom found that Gomez suffered \$11.5 million in damages, the panel found both the city and Gomez negligent.
Waterbury	CT	City	\$8,000,000	Settlement	2/15/2007	9/1/2010	On Feb. 15, 2007, Rose Marie Deschesnes, who was then 22 years old, was snow tubing on a hill at the city-owned park. She crashed into a metal bench near a baseball field at Fulton Park, causing a fracture of her fifth cervical vertebra. She received an \$8 million settlement from the city. She suffered a spinal cord injury that left her a quadriplegic. She filed a lawsuit last in 2009 alleging the city should never have put a bench at the base of such a popular sledding spot and failed to take safety precautions. Deschesnes' lawyer says the settlement money will be put into a trust to pay for her medical and living expenses for the rest of her life. An aide to the mayor says he believes the bench has been removed.
Washington DOT	WA	State	\$8,000,000	Settlement	10/28/2007	10/25/2010	The state Transportation Department has agreed to pay \$8 million to a bicyclist who was paralyzed after his tire got caught in a gap between two steel grates on the Montlake Bridge. Environmental lawyer Mickey Gendler was thrown over the handlebars, and his head slammed against the roadway in the Oct. 28, 2007 accident. The impact split his helmet and paralyzed him from the neck down. Gendler sued over the design of the bridge, citing a gap between two steel panels on the bridge deck. At more than the half-inch width called for in the design, the gap was wide enough to catch his bike tire. The lawsuit uncovered another accident eight years earlier involving a bicyclist that resulted in less serious injuries. The two sides settled in Thurston County Superior Court with neither side having to admit fault.
Orange County Transportation Authority	CA	Transit	\$7,250,000	Settlement	3/2/2010	12/14/2007	OCTA reached a \$7.25 million settlement with a man who suffered leg injuries when he attempted to board a bus that had pulled away from the bus stop. Ronald Cunningham, 52, who had a blood-alcohol level of .27, was injured when he fell under a bus and was run over while attempting to board it. His BAC was more than three times legal limit of .08 for drivers. Cunningham, formerly a heating and air conditioning specialist, was already on full-time disability at the time of the accident. He suffered a degloving injury to his left leg and required a colostomy.

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TARC	KY	Transit	\$7,000,000	Settlement	8/8/2005	12/3/2007	Lawyer Kevin Hable brought charges against TARC, the public bus transportation system serving Greater Louisville, KY, after he sustained permanent brain injuries in an 8/5/2005 collision with a bus. Hable alleged that the bus driver had a history of drug abuse, an allegation that was confirmed after a drug test administered two days later found with "reasonable scientific probability" that the bus driver was under the influence of cocaine at the time of the collision. Hable alleged that TARC was negligent in hiring the driver out of a drug-treatment program, then retaining her when she tested positive for cocaine after an incident the following year. Sources claimed that Hable, who once was cabinet secretary to former Gov. Brereton Jones and managing partner at Wyatt Tarrant & Combs, was forced to take early retirement from the law firm because of his injuries. As part of a settlement reached, TARC agreed to resolve the matter out-of-court by paying Hable \$7 million .
MTA New York	NY	Transit	\$7,000,000	Verdict	12/2/2002	3/1/2009	In March, a jury awarded James Sanders \$7 million after a subway train struck him when he stumbled onto the tracks in 2002. The jury found him to be 30 percent culpable. His right leg had to be amputated and he also lost an eye. December 12, 2002, James Sanders fell onto the tracks as a subway car in Brooklyn was coming into the station at about 15 mph. The jury was also apprised of the facts that Sanders had been returning from methadone treatment and had drunk pure rum before entering the station (a fact he initially denied).
Los Angeles Fire Department	CA	City	\$6,200,000	Verdict	2002-2004	7/3/2007	Los Angeles firefighter who said she was harassed at work because she is African-American, a woman and a lesbian received a \$6.2 million jury award against the city. The jury ruled in favor of Brenda Lee, 39, of Mission Hills after a two-week trial in Los Angeles Superior Court. It's the largest payout in a string of recent settlements of cases alleging discrimination and retaliation against women and minorities within the Los Angeles Fire Department. A 12-year LAFD veteran, Lee alleged her superiors made derogatory comments about her and put her through grueling drills without proper safety precautions because of her race and sexual orientation. She also said her locker was ransacked. Most of the discrimination occurred from 2002 to 2004 while she was assigned to the Chatsworth station Lee filed her lawsuit in 2005 along with two former Los Angeles firefighters - both white - who also alleged they faced discrimination and were forced to retire partly because of their age. Lewis Steven Bressler, 68, claimed he was placed in a hostile work environment at Fire Station 96 in retaliation for blowing the whistle on Lee's mistreatment. He won a \$1.73 million
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services	WA	State	\$6,200,000	Settlement		6/7/2007	King County approved a \$6.2 million settlement for four siblings who were abused in foster care, making the settlement the largest of its kind in the state. The charges were against the state Department of Social and Health Services, which oversees foster care, alleging that the state acted negligently when it licensed Pearl Hall to be a foster mother nearly 20 years ago, and that it failed to monitor the home after the four kids were placed. The four siblings were severely abused by hall, whipped with switches, extension cords, shoes and boards during their five years in Hall's care. The abuse was discovered when one of the children, then 7, ran away and got help. Pearl Hall was convicted of a misdemeanor assault charge and died in 2004. Some DSHS workers raised concerns about Hall, but those concerns were brushed aside. The state renewed Hall's license repeatedly and allowed her to operate a day-care center. The lawsuit recounts 16 points at which the state should have realized something was wrong.

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MTA New York	NY	Transit	\$6,130,000	Settlement	6/1/1998	12/24/2007	56-year-old Shelton Stewart, a former New York doorman who slipped on a pile of pigeon droppings on a subway station's stairs in 1998, was awarded \$6.13 million in compensation. The trial took three weeks, but the jury took less than a day to award Stewart \$7.67 million in damages. He'll get 80 percent of that, or \$6,130,000 , because he was found 20 percent liable for failing to avoid the poop pile the second time around. The suit claimed that the doorman was left permanently disabled after falling down some subway stairs. The city was accused of knowing the potential hazard of the droppings, yet choosing to do nothing about it City officials claim that the city plans to appeal. [
Los Angeles Unified School District	CA	School District	\$6,000,000	Settlement	12/1/1984	3/13/1990	March 13, 1990. District to pay \$6 million to 16 youngsters abused by teacher at two South-Central Los Angeles campuses. The money will go to 16 children who were molested by third-grade teacher Terry E. Bartholome at the 68th Street School in South-Central Los Angeles. The 19 parents or guardians who also were plaintiffs in the suit had sought more than \$200 million when the suit was filed in 1986. The payments will go toward psychological counseling, medical services and education as well as providing a source of income for the victims. Bartholome, arrested in 1985 after two years at the school, was convicted and sentenced in 1986 to 44 years in prison. That same year, a district administrator, Stuart N. Bernstein, was convicted of violating a state law that requires prompt reporting of molestation complaints to a child protective agency. Bernstein reported the allegations against Bartholome in December, 1984, to school district police instead of to the Los Angeles Police Department. Bernstein's convihe was placed in a hostile work environment at Fire Station 96 in retaliation for blowing the whistle on Lee's mistreatment. He won a \$1.73 million jury award in April. The third plaintiff, Gary Mellinger, settled with the city for \$350,000 last year. a 32-foot
University of California	CA	State	\$6,000,000	Settlement	12/1/2004	10/16/2009	A 4-year-old boy with cerebral palsy received a judge approved \$5.75 million settlement on his behalf. Cannon Hoops got \$1.75 million up front and another \$4 million in annuities that are expected to pay for his medical and assistive care as well as future lost earnings over the rest of his life. The money was awarded by the University of California Board of Regents as a result of injuries the boy suffered when he was born in the UC Davis Medical Center. His parents also have been awarded \$250,000 to waive any future wrongful death claims in the event their only son does not survive. The total of \$6 million is the largest amount the university has ever agreed to pay to settle a medical malpractice case. Cannon Hoops suffered "severe and permanent" neurological injuries as a result of a lack of oxygen to his brain during his Dec. 1, 2004 birth at the medical center.
Baltimore	MD	City	\$6,000,000	Settlement	1/1/1997	12/13/2004	Jeffrey Alston was left paralyzed after his neck was broken during a 1997 arrest by Baltimore police. He was stopped for speeding by officer Arnold McDonald who said he initially wanted to issue Mr. Alston a ticket but took him into custody after smelling alcohol on the man's breath. Mr. Alston stated that three additional officers arrived at the scene and that he "was handcuffed, put in leg irons, strip-searched, put in a headlock and then thrown headfirst" into the back of a police van. Alston has agreed to a \$6 million settlement. He is currently receiving around the clock care at an Ellicott City nursing home. A jury awarded Alston \$39 million earlier this year, but the payout was reduced and delayed by appeals. A Circuit Court jury ordered the city to pay Mr. Alston \$559,334 for past medical expenses, an additional \$8.5 million for future life-care costs and \$30 million for physical and mental pain, impairment and disfigurement.
State of New Jersey	NJ	State	\$6,000,000	Verdict	7/4/2006	10/28/2009	On October 28, 2009, a Hunterdon County, New Jersey jury rendered a \$6 million verdict in favor of Warren County resident Kenneth Matlock, who sustained severe and permanent injuries when a large, decayed tree limb fell from a tree onto his vehicle on Route 29 in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County on July 4, 2006.

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Newark	NJ	City	\$5,800,000	Settlement	10/24/2004	7/2/2008	Monique Hawkins, 39, Nicole Floyd, 34, and driver Gail Williams, 43, died after their Jeep Cherokee plunged off a 15-foot embankment at Raymond Boulevard in Newark, NJ. The families of Hawkins and Floyd received a share of a \$5.8 million settlement last year. Slater said he represented Floyd's estate. He also said to his knowledge, Williams' family did not file a lawsuit. At the time the three women drowned, there were no guardrails or barriers along that stretch of roadway. Several day after the accident, the city council passed a resolution recommending that barriers be installed in the quarter-mile area.
Miami Beach	FL	City	\$5,750,000	Verdict	2/20/1997	12/15/2009	Federal Court Verdict Upholds \$5.75 million legal settlements. A verdict has been reached against Monticello Insurance Company, which had refused to pay a settlement between the City of Miami Beach and the families of Zachary Breaux and Eugenie Poleyeff, who drowned there on February 20, 1997. Breaux, 36, his wife, and three daughters were vacationing at the Seville Hotel on Miami Beach. Nearby, Rabbi Israel Poleyeff and his wife, Eugenie, 66 had rented lounge chairs and umbrellas behind the hotel. When Mrs. Poleyeff was caught in the rip current, Breaux entered the water to save Mrs. Poleyeff. Both drowned while Breaux's wife and three young daughters watched in horror. The case created a landmark ruling. In 2005. The Florida Supreme Court ruled that cities, like private landowners, have a responsibility to warn beachgoers of dangerous conditions that are known or should be known.
Seaside Heights and Tom's River	NJ	City	\$5,700,000	Settlement	4/9/2002	7/31/2007	Edward Lutes, a Seaside Heights Patrolman, used his MP-5 assault rifle to shoot and kill Toms River residents Gail Galliano, 49, her husband, Dominick, 51, and their son, Christopher, 25, along with two members of the Williams family, Gary, 48, and his wife, Tina, 46, on April 9, 2002. The surviving members of the Williams and the Gallianos families filed suit for the wrongful deaths of their family members. In a settlement reached, the two Toms River families, whose loved ones were murdered, will receive \$5.7 million in settlement with Seaside Heights, Toms River and retired Seaside Heights Police Chief James Costello. The three surviving children of the Williams family, whose parents were shot and killed by Lutes, will receive \$2.3 million from the Municipal Liability Joint Insurance Fund. Relatives of the second slain family, the Gallianos, will receive \$3.4 million.
Coronado	CA	City	\$5,500,000	Settlement	9/1/2006	7/2/2008	A former member of the San Diego Chargers settled a lawsuit against the city of Coronado and a police officer. In September of 2006, 23-year-old off-duty policeman Aaron Mansker followed athlete Steve Foley's vehicle because he believed Mr. Foley was driving while intoxicated. The officer trailed Mr. Foley from San Diego to Poway, where he then instructed Mr. Foley to pull over and get out of his vehicle. Mr. Mansker said it appeared that Mr. Foley was taking out a weapon as he exited his vehicle, at which point the off-duty policeman shot Mr. Foley in the back of his knee and his hip. Mr. Foley did not have a weapon. Mr. Mansker, who was dressed in casual clothing and driving his personal vehicle, claimed that he informed Mr. Foley that he was a police officer; however, he never presented his badge. Mr. Foley's injuries required 12 surgeries, and he still suffers painful nerve damage and has trouble walking. He was forced to end his football career. He filed a civil lawsuit against the city of Coronado and Mr. Mansker because he believed procedural violations had been made. The lawsuit was settled for \$5.5 million .

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State of California	CA	State	\$5,500,000	Settlement	5/20/2000		by his girlfriend, was severely injured when the driver lost control of the vehicle while attempting to negotiate the curve. The Miata left the roadway, went up an adjacent embankment, rolled, and landed upside down back on the roadway. The driver admitted to the CHP that she was going "too fast" for the curve at 60-65 mph. The airbags deployed and the seat belts remained fastened on both the driver and the passenger. The driver was able to unfasten her seat belt and remove herself from under the car. The passenger suffered fractures to his C4-6 vertebrae, rendering him an immediate C4-5 quadriplegic. He is permanently confined to a wheelchair and has virtually no use of his arms and legs. When the driver saw that the speed limit increased from 35 mph to 55 mph, she increased the speed of the Miata to approximately 60-65 mph in the straightaway following the 55 mph speed limit sign. Then, within 1200 feet of the 55 mph speed limit sign and Mr. Mansker because he believed procedural violations had been made. The lawsuit was settled for \$5.5 million. ent. He won a \$1.73 million jury award in April. The third plaintiff, Gary Mellinger, settled with the city for \$350,000 last
Beaufort County School District	SC	School District	\$5,100,000	Settlement	1/1/2002	5/6/2008	Molestation. Beaufort County, SC: (May-06-08) an eighth victim brought a lawsuit against the Beaufort County School District, stating that he was molested by former teacher Philip Underwood-Sheppard. In a recent announcement made by the school's spokespersons, the school stated that it has agreed to pay the victim over \$500,000 to resolve the claims. The board stated that the money will come out of the school district's budget, which will not require a tax increase. Court papers reveal that the victim sued the district in October 2007, and rejected a \$300,000 settlement offer from the district in February 2008. District officials said that they decided to settle rather than risk the costs of a protracted trial. They said that Underwood-Sheppard, a former music teacher at Coosa Elementary School, received a 25 years sentence in 2003 after pleading guilty to molesting at least nine students between the ages of 6 and 13 from 1999 to 2002. Court papers show that the County Council finalized a \$4.6 million settlement in August 2007 for six victims, and a seventh case was settled and paid by district liability insurers.
Berrien County	MI	County	\$5,085,000	Settlement	8/23/2002	9/1/2006	On July 17,2002 Dr. David Alan Speers was arrested for drunk driving and released on bond. On August 20, 2002 he was scheduled for a hearing but was found to be intoxicated (.227 BAC) in violation of the terms of his release. The judge found him in contempt of court and sentenced him to three days in prison where he was placed in a "drunk tank" and then moved to "sick call". A doctor determined that Speers was in the early stage of alcohol withdrawal and suffering with DTs. On August 23, 2002 he was found in his cell not breathing. Cause of death was determined to be chronic ethanolism with hypertensive cardiovascular disease and atherosclerotic disease. The family sued the Berrien County for grossly negligent medical care.
Buena Park	CA	City	\$5,000,000	Settlement	12/23/2004	7/9/2007	Juan Herrera,23, was shot and killed by veteran gang officer Ron Furtado, two days before Christmas in 2004. Furtado claimed that he shot out after he believed Herrera was leaning over as if to grab a weapon from under his car seat. However, Herrera was reported as sitting upright, according to testimony from a forensics expert. Court records stated that Herrera, and passenger Marcos Osoria, led officers on a vehicle pursuit December 23, 2004, after the two were pulled over for a traffic violation. Herrera hit the gas when police approached his window. The pursuit ended when Furtado's partner, officer Steve Yakubovsky, used their patrol car to pin the fleeing Oldsmobile in an alley near the intersection of Grand Avenue and Jackson Street. In a settlement reached, the city agreed to pay the Herrera family \$5 million as compensation.

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State of California	CA	State	\$5,000,000	Verdict	3/1/2806	11/3/2010	Girl Struck by Car Awarded \$10 Million. A teenage girl who was struck by a car while crossing an intersection in 2006 and has been in a coma ever since, was awarded over \$10 million by a jury. Emily Liou was 17 at the time of the accident, and suffered massive brain damage as a result. She has never regained consciousness. Liou was struck on El Camino Real by Gada Hassany, the driver of the car. Hassany contended that she didn't see Liou until it was too late. A lawsuit was filed on Liou's behalf against Hassany and the state of California The suit alleged that the location of the marked crosswalk was dangerous given that it is in a busy uncontrolled intersection with multiple lanes of traffic, and that it gives pedestrians a false sense of security. The state argued that there had been only three pedestrian accidents at this crosswalk in the past 10 years. The jury found the state 50 percent \$5,000,000 , Hassany 30 percent, and Liou 20 percent liable.
New York City	NY	City	\$5,000,000	Settlement	3/1/2005	9/4/2007	Maria Noto brought a lawsuit against the city of New York, after a city sanitation driver Tommy Puma ignored safety rules and backed his salt spreader up a Queens street, crushing the lady under the wheels and dragging her 40 feet. As a result of the accident, Noto lost her leg. Noto reached a \$5 million settlement with the city in May 2007.