

(Summary of Verdict/Settlement)

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Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California.

Pineda vs. Anderson, et al.

TOPIC:

Synopsis: No fault passenger suffers brain injury in disputed liability intersection accident

DOCKET NUMBER: PC052213

Case Name: Patrick Pineda, by and through his Conservators Norine Boehmer and Dawn Mills v. Chazz Anderson, Christopher Anderson, and Michael Thrasher

Court: Los Angeles Superior Court - Central District

Judge: Hon. Elia Weinbach

Case Type: Personal Injury - SUV Auto, Intersection, Motor Vehicle Claim, Brain Injury.

Settlement : \$365,000.00 (combined policy limits)

Year of Settlement: August 28, 2014

Plaintiff Counsel: Tyler J. Barnett of Yuhl Carr LLP (Los Angeles, CA); and Michael Ehline, Esq. of Ehline Law Firm, PC (Los Angeles, CA)

Defense Counsel: Thomas W. Shaver of Shaver, Korff & Castronovo (Encino, CA); Jeffrey E. Zinder and Carl Koch of Law Offices of Zinder & Koch (Mission Hills, CA)

Facts provided by Plaintiff:

On December 17, 2011 at approximately 11:00 p.m., plaintiff Patrick Pineda was a passenger in 1999 Ford Explorer being operated by Michael Thrasher. Thrasher made a left turn from eastbound Plummer St. onto southbound Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Los Angeles, CA. Chazz Anderson was driving his father Christopher Anderson's 2008 GMC Yukon Denali southbound on Topanga Blvd. when he impacted the Thrasher vehicle. Thrasher contended that the light was green for his left turn. But, Anderson claimed the light was green or him when he entered the intersection. In this traffic light dispute, Pineda was a no-fault passenger. Anderson was insured by two policies for \$250,000 and \$100,000. It was disputed whether the second policy of \$100,000 covered this loss. Thrasher carried only \$15,000 in insurance. Ultimately, the case settled for the combined policy limits of \$365,000.

Case settled for \$365,000.00

Facts Provided by Defendant(s): None provided.

Injuries: Patrick Pineda suffered a traumatic brain injury including subdural hematoma with residual cognitive and behavioral impairment. He now resides in a supportive living residence specific for individuals with traumatic brain injury, called the Howard House in Escondido, CA. The total medical bills paid by Medi-Cal were \$172,833.57. Pineda's recovery was placed in a Special Needs Trust.

Plaintiff Experts: None

Defense Experts: Barry I. Ludwig, MD, Neurology (Los Angeles, CA); and Steven Nagelberg, MD, Orthopedics (Sherman Oaks, CA)

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