



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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JURY RULES IN FAVOR OF CITY IN NEGLIGENCE CASE PANEL REJECTS \$3.7 MILLION CLAIM BY INJURED MOTORCYCLIST

San Diego, CA: The City of San Diego has prevailed in a \$3.7 million lawsuit brought against it by a motorcyclist who was seriously injured in a 2009 accident in Logan Heights.

Ronald Coburn, 20, alleged the intersection of National Avenue and 31st Street was dangerous because the City had negligently failed to install a four-way stop or stop light in the intersection; and also because the City incorrectly placed a stop sign limit line and failed to prohibit parking near the intersection.

A jury ruled in favor of the City on Sept. 30, 2011, after a 10-day trial and three hours of deliberation.

“Although we sympathize with anyone who is injured, this accident was not caused by the City of San Diego,” said City Attorney Jan Goldsmith. “We are pleased that the jury agreed with our assessment.”

Coburn was riding his motorcycle west on National Avenue on Feb. 22, 2009 when he collided with a truck in the intersection of 31st Street. The motorcycle struck the truck with such force as to move the truck laterally seven feet. Coburn suffered extensive injuries.

Coburn sought \$3.7 million from the City for pain and suffering, medical expenses, property damage, lost wages and future earning capacity.

The City was defended by the San Diego City Attorney’s Office. Coburn was represented by the law offices of Sean T. O’Bryan. The case was filed as *Coburn vs. City of San Diego, et al*, San Diego Superior Court case #37-2009-00103841-CU-PA-CTL. Copies of the complaint are available upon request.

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