



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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Lawyer sought \$1.2 million; jury awards \$30,800

City had offered plaintiff \$50,000 to settle the case

A motorist whose car was rear-ended by a police cruiser in 2015 was awarded \$30,800 by a San Diego jury last week, despite jurors being told by the plaintiff's lawyer that he deserved more than \$1.2 million.

The verdict followed six days of trial in the suit brought by lawyer Dan Gilleon on behalf of motorist William Raines, an emergency medical technician.

Prior to trial, the plaintiff demanded \$500,000 to settle the case, reducing that offer to \$350,000 just before trial. The City rejected both offers.

The City offered to settle for \$50,000, but the plaintiff rejected that offer.

On the eve of trial, Gilleon criticized the City Attorney's Office for not settling on his terms, telling the San Diego Reader, "City attorneys are essentially taking a flyer on the taxpayers' dime."

"When will this nonsense end?" Gilleon asked in the August 23 article. "I suppose when the new city attorney gets sworn in, assuming it's a real attorney, not a politician who makes day-to-day decisions on the basis of whether they will make him look like a real attorney."

One month later, the jury clarified which attorney had completely misread the case.

(The full article is found here: <http://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2016/aug/23/ticker-man-struck-police-cruiser-gets-day-court/>)

The case was argued for the City by Deputy City Attorney Catherine Richardson.

In Gilleon's prior case against the City, his client accused former mayor Bob Filner of sexual battery and harassment. The claim against the City sought \$500,000 and Gilleon rejected the City's offer of \$25,001. At trial, Deputy City Attorney George Schaefer suggested the jury award her \$1. The jury awarded her nothing.

Gilleon also represented another Filner accuser whose case was barred due to critical filing deadlines that were missed.

Details can be found here: https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/nr151230_0.pdf

Prior to winning exactly zero dollars for those two clients, Gilleon told an interviewer for KUSI that he hoped a new city attorney would handle such lawsuits differently.

“They’re walking the taxpayers of the city into a courtroom where they can get absolutely hammered,” Gilleon said.

City Attorney Jan Goldsmith said: **"We evaluate cases based upon the law and evidence, not bluster and personal attacks against me coming from an unprofessional lawyer. This way, we tend to get our evaluations correct."**

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