Verdicts & Settlements

RESULT DATE: Apr. 20, 2026

Andrew Arellano v. J.B. Hunt Transport Services Inc., Dirt Cheap Inc. dba DCG Fulfillment, Intergrated Design, and Does 1 to 20, inclusive (21STCV38984)

Los Angeles County Superior Court

26-JV_146841

TOPIC: Personal Injury

SUB TOPIC: Premises Liability

FURTHER DESCRIPTION: Negligence

Verdict: $1,134,669

JUDGE:
Graciela Freixes

ATTORNEYS:
Plaintiff:
Ian C. Deady (Krissman & Silver LLP)
Joel Krissman (Krissman & Silver LLP)

Defendant:
Rafayel Aslanyan (Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead LLP)
Zubin Farinpour (Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead LLP)
Cooper E. Jacobs (Tyson & Mendes LLP)
Jack M. Liebhaber (Tyson & Mendes LLP)

FACTS: Plaintiff Andrew Arellano sued defendants California Distribution Center, LLC, and MJM Transportation, Inc., over an incident that occurred on March 13, 2021, at the BNSF Hobart Rail Yard in Los Angeles.

Plaintiff alleged that he was injured while attempting to move a 53-foot intermodal shipping container in the rail yard using his yard hostler tractor. The container was loaded by defendant California Distribution Center, LLC, at its warehouse in Ontario and then delivered to the yard by defendant MJM Transportation, Inc. Plaintiff alleged that California Distribution Center loaded the container in an unsafe and unreasonable manner by failing to properly distribute and secure the 20-ton load of double-stacked and palletized household cleaning products, causing the container to roll over while plaintiff executed a routine turn from the parking stall. Plaintiff alleged that MJM Transportation knew the container was unsafely loaded when it picked it up but failed to reject the loading pattern and instead delivered it to the yard in that condition.

Plaintiff presented testimony from an accident reconstruction engineer who opined that the container did not roll over on the way to the yard because it was hauled by MJM's significantly larger and heavier 10-wheel semitruck and that the rollover was inevitable once plaintiff began to pull the container with his smaller yard hostler, due to the distribution and weight of the load relative to the smaller yard truck.

Plaintiff suffered injuries to his left shoulder, neck, and back and sought damages including past and future medical expenses, past loss of earnings, and past and future pain and suffering. Plaintiff had significant pre-existing degenerative changes in his spine that had not previously caused problems.

Defendants denied that the container was loaded unsafely and alleged that it rolled over because plaintiff drove at an excessive speed while turning too sharply. Defendants also disputed the cause, nature, and extent of plaintiff's alleged damages. They contended that plaintiff's shoulder surgery would have been necessary regardless of the incident, that plaintiff should have returned to work within a year after the incident, and that no future medical care was reasonably related to the incident.

LENGTH: 11 days

POLL: 12-0

DELIBERATION: 40 minutes

RESULT: The jury awarded the full amount of damages requested by plaintiff for $1,134,669.

FILING DATE: Oct. 21, 2021