

## METROLINK AGREES TO PAY \$30 MILLION IN SETTLEMENT TO RESOLVE 90% OF THE VICTIMS' CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF THE GLENDALE METROLINK DERAILMENT

LOS ANGELES - Metrolink has agreed to settle 90% of the Glendale Metrolink derailment cases for \$30 million. Metrolink reached this agreement in order to provide the Glendale accident victims approximately \$30 million in compensation. Lead counsel for the Glendale Metrolink derailment cases, [Jerome Ringler](#) of Ringler Kearney Alvarez and [Brian Panish](#) of Panish, Shea & Boyle, were prepared to try the liability phase of this litigation this fall when settlement momentum allowed for the resolution of virtually all the injury and wrongful death matters involved in this litigation.

The Glendale Metrolink tragedy occurred on January 26, 2005 when Juan Alvarez parked his jeep across the tracks in Glendale, approximately 100 feet south of Chevy Chase Boulevard. Southbound Metrolink Train 100 struck the jeep and continued southbound off the rail until striking a parked Union Pacific locomotive, thereafter jack-knifing and colliding into northbound Metrolink Train 901. Eleven individuals died as a result of this tragedy which was, at the time, the largest commuter rail disaster in U.S. history. Subsequently, the Metrolink disaster in Chatsworth has taken over the number one spot for the largest commuter rail disaster in U.S. history. Mr. Ringler and Mr. Panish are also lead counsel in the Chatsworth litigation.

"Thus far, we believe the Glendale settlements have been fair and reasonable given that Juan Alvarez, who parked his jeep on the Metrolink right-of-way, has been subsequently convicted of eleven counts of first-degree murder," said Mr. Ringler.

Mr. Ringler and Mr. Panish were prepared to argue at trial that the collision between Train 100 and the Union Pacific locomotive, which caused all the injuries and deaths, would have been avoided had the engineer applied his emergency brakes at the very location he admitted in sworn testimony that he was obligated to apply them. Trial in the Glendale matter has been continued until January 4, 2010 in an effort to allow counsel to continue in their settlement efforts so that the remaining cases which are as yet unsettled might find a way to resolve. Mr. Ringler and Mr. Panish believe that further settlement efforts will ultimately be productive as to the currently unsettled cases.

"If indeed the remaining unsettled cases, which constitutes two wrongful death matters and a greater number of injury cases are not settled, it may still be necessary to try liability," said Mr. Panish. "But with the current momentum to resolve the remaining case, we believe settlement of all cases is a high probability."

Judge Emilie Elias, before whom this matter is pending, has encouraged counsel to continue settlement discussions and indeed continued the trial date until January for this purpose.