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Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California.

Silva vs. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**TOPIC:**

Synopsis: Man fatally struck by train while standing on platform

Case Type: Common Carrier; Rapid Transit; Wrongful Death; Adult

DOCKET NUMBER: NC056854

STATE: California  
COUNTY: Los Angeles

Verdict/Judgment Date: March 25, 2013

JUDGE: [Samantha P. Jessner](#)

**ATTORNEYS:**

Plaintiff: [Michael Ehline](#), Ehline Law Firm PC, et al.

Defendant: [William J. Glazer](#), Veatch Carlson, Los Angeles; [Mark A. Weinstein](#), Veatch Carlson, Los Angeles.

**SUMMARY:**

Verdict/Judgment: Plaintiff

Verdict/Judgment Amount: \$875,000

Range: \$500,000-999,999  
\$875,000 to plaintiff for damages

Trial Type: Settlement

**EXPERTS:**

Plaintiff: [Peter R. Francis](#), Ph.D., biomechanical engineer, Poway, (858) 485-8863.

Defendant: Not reported.

**TEXT:**

**CASE INFORMATION**

**FACTS/CONTENTIONS**

According to Plaintiff: Plaintiff Kathleen Silva's 33-year-old son, decedent Ryan Williams, was fatally struck in the head by a southbound Blue Line train while standing on the MTA platform at Long Beach Boulevard and PCH on April 1, 2011.

Plaintiff alleged decedent was struck by the train's mirror, which plaintiff argued extended over the platform. There was reportedly no tissue or blood transfer to the mirror and the mirror was not pushed inward by the alleged contact. Defendant Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority produced surveillance video of the incident and alleged that the decedent was standing dangerously close to the edge of the platform and placed his head in front of the train. The decedent reportedly had a mental disability and his mother admitted to telling him on a number of occasions not to stand that close to the edge. Defendant further alleged design immunity as a complete bar to any recovery.

**CLAIMED INJURIES**

According to Plaintiff: Death.

**CLAIMED DAMAGES**

According to Plaintiff: Noneconomic damages only.

**SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS**

According to Plaintiff: Not reported.

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