

FEATURED VERDICT

Intentional Torts

Student claimed instructor continued sexual abuse

Verdict \$10,000,000

A.G. v. Avalos

Kern County Superior Court, Kern

Plaintiff's Attorneys Daniel Rodriguez and Chantal A. Trujillo; Rodriguez & Associates; Bakersfield, Calif.

Defense Attorneys Leonard C. Herr Jr.; Herr, Pedersen & Berglund LLP; Visalia, Calif. (settling defendants); and Frederick C. Kumpel; Frederick C. Kumpel; Bakersfield, Calif. (liable defendant)

Full report on page 11

CASES of NOTE

- Motor Vehicle — Rear-ender** Los Angeles County
Plaintiff's psychological issues were pre-existing; defense 5
- Dangerous Condition of Public Property — Roadways** Los Angeles County
Motorcyclist claimed holes left in roadway caused crash 6
- Motor Vehicle — Red Light — Broadside** Orange County
Plaintiff claimed broadside crash caused spinal injuries 8
- Employment — Retaliation — Workplace Harassment** Riverside County
School district fired her over pregnancy, plaintiff claimed 9
- Motor Vehicle — Pedestrian** Santa Barbara County
Pedestrian negligent for walking on roadway edge, defense argued 9
- Motor Vehicle — Passenger — Rollover** Butte County
Plaintiff was able to return to work after crash, defense alleged 12
- Employment — Gender Discrimination** U.S. District Court, Central District
School paid male tutor more than female tutor, EEOC claimed 13
- Employment — Whistleblower — Retaliation** U.S. District Court, Central District
Suit: Engineer fired for reporting access to classified information 14
- Motor Vehicle — Pedestrian — Speeding** Undocketed
Claimants alleged driver was partially liable for mom's death 15



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policies and procedures, as necessary, regarding compliance with the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act; implement training to all employees regarding equal-pay practices, sex discrimination and retaliation; develop a centralized tracking system for policy dissemination and discrimination, unequal pay, or retaliation complaints; and submit annual reports to the EEOC, verifying compliance with the decree.

The court will maintain jurisdiction over the case during the term of the two-year consent decree.

EDITOR'S NOTE This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiff's counsel. Defense counsel did not respond to the reporter's phone calls.

-Priya Idiculla

EMPLOYMENT

Whistleblower — Retaliation — Wrongful Termination

Suit: Engineer fired for reporting access to classified information

VERDICT	\$1,505,561
CASE	David Lillie v. ManTech Int'l Corp., a Delaware Corporation, and Does 1-20, No. 2:17-cv-02538
COURT	United States District Court, Central District, Los Angeles
JUDGE	Christina A. Snyder
DATE	2/28/2019
PLAINTIFF	
ATTORNEY(S)	Jan T. Aune, The Law Office of Jan T. Aune, Arcadia, CA
DEFENSE	
ATTORNEY(S)	Alison N. Davis, Littler Mendelson P.C., Washington, DC Jina Lee, Littler Mendelson P.C., Los Angeles, CA

FACTS & ALLEGATIONS On Feb. 6, 2015, plaintiff David Lillie, 64, an engineer, was terminated from his position at ManTech International Corp., in Montrose.

ManTech was a third-party contractor on a robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of the planet Mars, as part of the Mars InSight Mission. ManTech contracted with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to use funds from the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology Reliability Engineering Support Services contract to pay for Lillie's services. Lillie provided engineering support in fulfillment of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and

Caltech Reliability Engineering Support Services contract. While Lillie was helping design the spacecraft's power supply, he received classified/proprietary documents, of which contractors, such as ManTech, were prohibited from gaining access. Lillie reported to ManTech that he had received unauthorized access to classified/proprietary information during his work on the project. Shortly thereafter, Lillie was placed on indefinite furlough and then terminated.

Lillie sued ManTech Int'l. Corp, alleging that ManTech's actions constituted whistleblower retaliation and wrongful termination.

Lillie claimed ManTech obtained the classified/proprietary documents, failed to inform him that they were not allowed to view the information, and then attempted to cover it up by having him remove information about the documents from his reports. He also claimed that ManTech fired him in retaliation for reporting that he had received unauthorized access to classified/proprietary information during his work on the project.

Defense counsel contended that ManTech furloughed and/or terminated Lillie's employment because the Jet Propulsion Laboratory terminated its contract with ManTech.

INJURIES/DAMAGES *emotional distress*

Lillie worked as a senior engineer at ManTech from 2007 until his termination. He sought recovery for his past and future loss of pay, and past and future emotional distress.

RESULT The jury found in favor of Lillie on all his claims. It also determined that Lillie's damages totaled \$1,505,561.

DAVID LILLIE	\$521,983 past lost earnings
	\$339,828 future lost earnings
	\$321,875 past emotional distress damages
	<u>\$321,875 future emotional distress damages</u>
	\$1,505,561

DEMAND OFFER

TRIAL DETAILS	Trial Length: 5 days
	Trial Deliberations: 3 days
	Jury Vote: 8-0

EDITOR'S NOTE This report is based on information that was provided by plaintiff's counsel. Additional information was gleaned from court documents. Defense counsel did not respond to the reporter's phone calls.

-Priya Idiculla