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## III. Jury Awards Family \$9M Over Fatal Car Crash

By **Celeste Bott**

Law360 (November 16, 2020, 9:18 PM EST) -- An Illinois jury has awarded \$9 million to the family of a father and son who were killed in a 2018 car crash after an employee of a construction supplier drove through a stop sign.

Jurors hit Consolidated Materials Inc. with the largest verdict on record in Boone County, Illinois, on Friday, following a trial last week. The family of Pedro Pasillas-Delgado, 22, and Pedro Pasillas-Sanchez, 52, had filed a wrongful death lawsuit alleging an employee of the company disregarded a stop sign and drove through an intersection, where he collided with the son and his father, killing them both.

"The Pasillas family is happy with the verdict because it recognizes the significant loss to the family. Their hope is to have some degree of closure and move forward with their lives," Patrick A. Salvi of Salvi Schostok & Pritchard, who represented the family, said in a statement.

The firm said the company admitted liability for the crash and offered a \$3 million settlement, which the family turned down, allowing the trial to begin last Monday.

Jonathan Goken, a Lewis Brisbois attorney who represented the company, told Law360 that after settling the case was no longer a viable option and the plaintiffs sought \$50.5 million from the jury, his client was pleased with the outcome.

"We hope this verdict allows everyone involved to move forward with their lives with the peace of knowing this litigation is now behind them," Goken said in a statement. "We also would like to express our condolences to the entire Pasillas family for their loss."

According to the family's 2018 lawsuit, Pasillas-Delgado was driving, with his father in the passenger seat, when the crash occurred in March 2018.

The Consolidated Materials employee, who was later dismissed from the suit, was driving a Ford F550 truck when he collided with the pair, according to the complaint. In addition to failing to stop at the stop sign, the family alleged he was operating a commercial motor vehicle while fatigued and while under the influence of cannabis.

The driver was also not medically qualified to drive the commercial vehicle, according to the lawsuit, and the car in question had not passed an inspection at least once during the preceding 12 months.

The impact of the collision caused both vehicles to flip, killing the father and son. They were pronounced dead at the scene, and the Consolidated Materials driver was not seriously injured, according to Salvi Schostok & Pritchard.

The surviving family, including wife and mother Maria Enriqueta Pasillas, brought a 12-count complaint for wrongful death, funeral and burial expenses and survival action, saying they suffered the loss of "money, benefits, goods, services, and society" provided by Pasillas-Sanchez in addition to grief, pain and suffering.

The Pasillas family is represented by Patrick A. Salvi, Brian L. Salvi and Eirene N. Salvi of Salvi Schostok & Pritchard.

Consolidated Materials is represented by Jonathan W. Goken and F. Michael Pasqualino of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP.

The case is Estate of Pedro Pasillas-Sanchez et al v. Consolidated Materials Inc., case number 2018-L-15, in the Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit County of Boone.

--Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.

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