

\$4,800,000

Truck Tire Failure
PRODUCT LIABILITY

FACTS: Plaintiff, a 37 year-old construction worker, was driving a Ford Ranger pick-up north-bound on SR14. Plaintiff had several passengers in the truck. The rear of the truck had a camper shell with bench seats. Three passengers were riding unbelted in the rear of the truck inside the camper shell. While traveling approximately 65 mph, the tire on the left rear suddenly separated. Plaintiff lost control of the vehicle, went off the roadway and the vehicle rolled several times. The three passengers were ejected from the vehicle.

CONTENTIONS: Plaintiffs contended that the tire on the subject vehicle was negligently manufactured and contained contaminants which caused the tire and steel belts to separate. Plaintiffs further contended that the loss of tread caused Plaintiff to lose control of the vehicle. Defendant contended that the tire had over 40,000 miles on it without any problems, had no manufacturing defect, and the tread separation was due to prolonged under inflation. Defendant further contended that Plaintiff was speeding and inattentive, otherwise he would have been able to control the vehicle and bring it to a controlled stop when the tread separated.

INJURIES: Orthopedic injuries to Plaintiff driver and one passenger. Death of three passengers who were ejected.

DELATORRE v. FORD MOTOR COMPANY, ET AL.
CASE NUMBER: PC 019623W
LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT