

NEWS RELEASE

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ECONOMIST QUANTIFIES THE LOSS OF LOVE, CARE & SOCIETY IN WRONGFUL DEATH OF HOMELESS MAN JURY VERDICT \$2,716,000

Jury returns verdict of \$2,716,000 for the death of 26 year old homeless man; total earnings for prior 5 years less than \$10,000; survived by two minors; no appeal.

Los Angeles, California – Robert W. Johnson & Associates was retained to present economic testimony, utilizing the accepted and recognized Willingness- To-Pay (WTP) theory, to establish a range of values to assist the jury in calculating the loss of love, care, comfort, society, etc. to the surviving children and mother.

Citation: *Covin v. City of Inglewood, Los Angeles, California, U.S. District Court, Central District, Court No. CV89-1032 HLH, Attorney Gary S. Casselman, Los Angeles, California.*

Case Synopsis: Mr. Samuel Covin, Jr., 26, was shot by the City of Inglewood Police, while living in his car. Mr. Covin was the father of two sons, ages 1 and 2, who lived with his common-law wife in her mother's apartment. He was unemployed at the time of his death and according to government records, his total income for the five (5) years prior to his death, did not exceed \$10,000. Yet, he did provide financial support, as well as daily care, love and attention to his children, wife and mother. Both Mr. Covin's mother and children sued for their loss of his love, care, comfort & society, etc.

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Expert testimony: Mr. Johnson's testimony was based on accepted methods of economic analysis in the field of Human Life Valuation and federal government studies, which provide a range for valuing the intangible value of human life. This range is from \$1,600,000 to \$8,500,000. Mr. Johnson testified that federal government studies concluded that the WTP dollar values are potentially useful when compensation involves putting a dollar figure on non-financial losses to the deceased or to survivors. Non-financial losses, according to Mr. Johnson, include such elements as love, care, comfort and society, etc.

Attorney Comments: "Since our pecuniary damages in the Covin case were limited, your testimony was vitally important to our case. As for the results, I think the \$2.7 million verdict speaks for itself. In fact the juror foreperson told me the rest of the jury wanted to award more than triple that figure."

Results: The defense offered, pre-trial \$100,000 and asked the jury for a defense verdict. The most the defendants had ever paid before for a police incident was \$130,000. The jury returned a verdict of \$2,716,000 which included lost economic support and the loss of care, comfort, society, etc. to his children and their grandmother.

About Robert W. Johnson & Associates: A nationally recognized economic consulting firm that specializes in illustrating and quantifying non-economic damages. Our purpose is to combine accepted leading-edge economic methodologies for calculating pecuniary and general damages with the latest in demonstrative evidence techniques. Our presentations are accurate, understandable and occupy the primary position of credibility in the mind of the trier of fact. The economic consulting services include quantifying the loss of enjoyment of life (pain and suffering) in a personal injury case; quantifying the loss of love, care, comfort, society, etc. to the survivors in a wrongful death case; illustrating, with the LIFE ACTIVITY CALENDAR, the loss of enjoyment/ quality of life; analyzing structured settlements; and generating wage loss reports that include the present value of future medical expenses.

For further information, telephone Robert W. Johnson & Associates at 1-800-541-7435
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