

# VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

## VERDICT: \$4,194,000



**Alan-Van-Gelder**



**Christian Nickerson**

### PERSONAL INJURY

#### PREMISES LIABILITY

Dangerous Condition

VERDICT: \$4,194,000

CASE/NUMBER: Gerald Dunn v. Home Depot USA Inc. / 22STCB19510

COURT/DATE: Los Angeles Superior / Nov. 26, 2025

**ATTORNEYS:**

**Plaintiff** – Alan L. Van Gelder, Christian T.F. Nickerson (Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP)

Defendant – Joshua S. Goodman (Goodman Neuman Hamilton LLP)

**FACTS:**

On April 1, 2022, plaintiff John Dunn, a 65-year-old television production designer (including The Conners and Fuller House), was struck by approximately 200 pounds of vertically stacked medium-density fiberboard (MDF) at the North

Hollywood Home Depot. The MDF boards, which Home Depot displayed close to vertical without the required safety-cable protection, fell onto Dunn as he attempted to measure one sheet.

Home Depot later admitted full liability shortly before trial, leaving causation and damages for the jury. Plaintiff presented evidence of a mild traumatic brain injury, loss of earnings, and profound emotional and cognitive changes following the incident.

Plaintiff contended that Home Depot knowingly created a dangerous condition by stacking MDF boards nearly vertically without maintaining a required safety cable system, despite acknowledging that detached cables are a recurring, foreseeable hazard in stores frequented by families and children. Plaintiff asserted vio-

lations of corporate safety procedures and a failure to preserve key evidence, including video footage and photographs.

Plaintiff argued that he suffered a mild traumatic brain injury, emotional and cognitive impairment, and loss of earning capacity, demonstrated by turning down a high-profile television assignment and significant post-injury changes corroborated by witnesses and medical experts.

Home Depot contended Dunn did not sustain a traumatic brain injury, emphasizing he had normal initial imaging, a GCS score of 15, and returned to work. Defense experts argued Dunn exaggerated or misinterpreted his symptoms, contended he did not lose consciousness, and asserted medical and neuropsychological testing showed capacity

inconsistent with a long-term cognitive injury. The defense further argued that Dunn's reported symptoms were emotional, not neurological, and that MRI findings were unrelated to the incident.

**RESULT:**

The Santa Monica jury awarded \$4.194 million in damages (before costs and cost-of-proof sanctions).

**PAST ECONOMIC:**  
\$269,000

**PAST NON-ECONOMIC:**  
\$1,500,000

**FUTURE LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY:** \$575,000

**NON-FUTURE ECONOMIC:**  
\$1,850,000

**FILING DATE:** Jun. 15, 2022