

VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

SETTLEMENT: \$6 MILLION



Ivan Puchalt



Jenna Edzant

TOPIC: PERSONAL INJURY

DANGEROUS CONDITION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY
Wrongful Death

SETTLEMENT: \$6 MILLION

CASE/NUMBER: Stephanie York, individually, as Heir, and Successor in Interest to the Estate of Decedent Ryan Taylor; James Edward Brown, Kayla Briers v. City and County of San Francisco; City and County of San Francisco, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Urban Forestry; San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency; San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; State of California; KDF Post Street L.P.; VPM Management Inc.; Rose Palmer; Lanell Ellison, and Does 1 through 50, inclusive / CGC-23-608132

COURT/DATE: San Francisco County Superior Court / Feb. 3, 2026

JUDGE: Rochelle C. East

ATTORNEYS:

Plaintiff – Ivan Puchalt and Jenna Edzant (Greene Broillet & Wheeler); Rene J. Molligan (Razi Law Group APLC)

Defendant – Thomas J. Tarkoff, Christina E. Kim (Office of the San Francisco City Attorney)

FACTS:

Plaintiff Stephanie York's son, decedent Ryan Taylor, was killed by injuries sustained when a Eucalyptus tree fell on him. According to plaintiffs, on March 21, 2023, 36-year old decedent was in San Francisco with plaintiff Kayla Briers intending to visit plaintiff James Brown who lives at 1030 Post Street. Decedent and plaintiff Briers had parked their vehicle under the Eucalyptus

tree. While retrieving items from the back of their vehicle, a large branch broke away from the tree hitting decedent, and plaintiffs Briers and Brown. Later that same day, decedent died from the injuries he sustained. Plaintiffs Briers and Brown also suffered injuries, including: Brown, several fractured vertebrae; Briers, spinal, orthopedic, and soft tissue injuries. Plaintiffs sued several entities and individuals including defendant City and County of San Francisco for, among others, wrongful death and negligence.

RESULT:

The City and County of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance authorizing settlement of the lawsuit for \$6.03 million.

FILING DATE: Aug. 4, 2023