

**Driver claims defective tires were the cause of her single-vehicle accident**

**PRODUCT LIABILITY**

Motor Vehicles : Tire/Wheel

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

*Lampe v. Continental General Tire Inc.*, No. BC173567,  
Downtown. Judith C. Chirlin. Jury trial: 10 weeks.  
Verdict/judgment: 4/13/2001.

**VERDICT/JUDGMENT: \$55,362,496**

Cynthia Lampe: \$8,856,921 economic; \$41,000,000 non-economic. Sylvia Cortez: \$5,575 economic; \$4,500,000 non-economic. Joseph Cortez: \$1,000,000 non-economic. Jury found defendant to be 100 percent at fault. Vote: Mixed poll. Deliberations: 8 days.

**TRIAL COUNSEL**

Plaintiff: Brian J. Panish, Greene, Broillet, Taylor, Wheeler & Panish, Santa Monica. Adam K. Shea, Greene, Broillet, Taylor, Wheeler & Panish, Los Angeles. Taras Kick, Kick Law Firm, Los Angeles. Daniel O'Leary, Kick Law Firm, Los Angeles.  
Defendant: Walter M. Yoka, Yoka & Smith, Los Angeles. Anthony Latiolait, Yoka & Smith, Los Angeles. Ken Moran, Kecker & Moran, Richmond, VA.

**FACTS/CONTENTIONS**

According to plaintiff: Plaintiffs claimed that the defective tires on their vehicle caused their rollover accident. The plaintiffs were Cynthia Lampe, a 33-year-old radiographic technician; Sylvia Cortez, her 53-year-old mother; and Joseph Cortez, her 57-year old father, a professional boxing referee. The defendant was Continental General Tire Inc. This single vehicle incident, which occurred on June 26, 1996, at approximately 1:00 p.m. on the northbound Interstate 15 Freeway in San Bernardino, was caused by the left rear tread/belt separation of a General Tire Ameri-Tech ST tire on plaintiffs' 1993 Ford Taurus. The vehicle initially moved left from lane 2 into lane 1 and was heading toward a guardrail and large drop-off. Plaintiff Lampe steered toward the right, at which time the vehicle spun clockwise out of control, struck an embankment and rolled onto its roof.