

# THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

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## FACSIMILE CONFIRMATION

Date: January 19, 1999

To: Brian J. Panish  
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This is to confirm that Greene, Broilet, Taylor, Wheeler & Panish has placed a listing in the "BIG WINS" section in the February 22nd issue of The National Law Journal.

Therefore attached please find your listing to proof for any typographical errors only. Your approved copy should be faxed to me no later than Friday, January 22nd.

As I mentioned you may also submit a new notable verdict or settlement. Please let me know if I may assist you with anything else. Thank You.

## Church Loses \$10M Verdict Over Van's Blown Tire

CASE TYPE: *personal injury*  
 CASE: Fuller v Greater Bethany  
 Community Church. BC 109 995  
 (Super. Ct., Los Angeles)

PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEYS: Brian J.  
 Panish, of Santa Monica, Calif.'s  
 Greene, Broillet, Taylor, Wheeler &  
 Panish, for Shirlee Fuller; and H. Neil  
 Margolin, of North Hollywood, Calif.'s  
 Lipton & Maraulin, for Josephine and  
 Geoffrey Hunte

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS: Jack J. Tannen-  
 baum, of Encino, Calif.'s Staitman,  
 Snyder, Tannenbaum & Dorensfeld, for  
 Greater Bethany Community Church;  
 Bennett Lums, of Irvine, Calif., for  
 Josephine and Geoffrey Hunte; and R.  
 Wesley Beavers, of Anaheim, Calif.'s  
 Koester & Gelman, for Fairmont Tire  
 & Rubber Co.

JURY VERDICT: \$10.1 million for Ms.  
 Fuller; \$199,500 for the Hunte;  
 defense verdict for Fairmont

ON AUG. 4, 1993, Shirlee Fuller was a passenger in a church van driven by Geoffrey Hunte when its left rear tire blew out near Albuquerque, N.M., and Mr. Hunte lost control of the van, said plaintiffs' attorney Brian J. Panish. Ms. Fuller was ejected from the vehicle when it rolled over. She sustained a crushed pelvis and orthopedic injuries when the top of the van landed on her, said Mr. Panish. Mr. Hunte and another passenger—his wife, Josephine—received minor injuries.

Ms. Fuller sued the Greater Bethany Community Church of Los Angeles, charging the church with negligence. Before the accident, said Mr. Panish, the church's mechanic had recommended that all four tires be replaced. Only three were replaced; the fourth blew out, causing the accident, he said. Ms. Fuller also sued Mr. Hunte, charging he had failed to operate the van in a safe manner. The Hunte's sued the church as well. The plaintiffs and the church also sued the Fairmont Tire & Rubber Co., which had replaced the other three tires.

The church denied any negligence, contending that Fairmont personnel had advised that replacing the fourth tire was unnecessary.

A Los Angeles jury Aug. 25 cleared Fairmont but found the church 97 percent and Mr. Hunte 3 percent responsible for the accident, awarding Ms. Fuller \$10.1 million and the Hunte's \$199,500. The church is preparing post-trial motions to set aside the verdict.