

VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS



Auto vs. Pedestrian

Wrongful Death

SETTLEMENT: \$1,000,000.

\$500,000 Donated by Ganz Jr.

Additional claims pending against \$10 Million insurance policy

CASE/NUMBER: Patricia Murphy v. Jerry Ganz Jr, Jerry Ganz Sr., Ridge Stone Financial LLC, Marvin Ganz and Michael R. Friedberg, as individual trustees of the Timmy Gateway Trust/BC385418.

COURT/DATE: Los Angeles Superior Central/
Oct. 15, 2008.

ATTORNEYS: Plaintiff- Cynthia D. Hafif (Hafif & Baron, LLP, Ontario); Stephen H. Cornet (Stephen A. Cornet, APC, Oakland)
Defendant- Tod M. Castronovo (Shaver, Korff

& Castronovo, LLP, Encino) for civil; Robert L Shapiro (Glaser, Weil, Fink, Jacobs & Shapiro, LLP, Los Angeles) for criminal.

FACTS: On August 31, 2007, at 3:15 a.m., Sean Murphy was walking on the sidewalk on Elm Street in Los Angeles, when driver, defendant Jerry Ganz Jr., drove his Mercedes Benz up on to

the sidewalk and struck Murphy. Jerry Ganz Jr. fled the scene and continued driving, only pulling over to rest in the area of 1950 Cypress Street. Officers arrested Jerry Ganz Jr. when he was attempting to start the vehicle again. His blood alcohol level was .20 at the time. Sean Murphy died within hours of impact.

The vehicle was owned by a company named Ridge Stone Financial (RSF). It was contended that RSF was set up as a shell to protect the Ganz family funds. Namely, RSF was created in Illinois by Jerry Ganz Jr., with the assistance of his father, Jerry Ganz Sr., where all of the other family businesses, properties and trust were set up and were operating from the same location.

It was alleged that Jerry Ganz Sr. set up and controlled RSF as well as there trust; that Ganz Sr. knew or reasonably should have known of Jerry Ganz Jr.'s prior criminal background, prior felony DUI convictions, dangerous alcoholic propensities, and recklessness, yet intentionally and negligently

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entrusted a dangerous weapon to his son, and set up sham entities all operating out of the same business locations, in an attempt to shield them from liability.

DAMAGES: Sean Murphy provided financial and emotional support to his elderly mother. At the time of the incident, he was still living at home with his mother.

RESULTS: The insurance policy on the vehicle was \$250,000, yet a settlement was reached for \$750,000 above the policy, for a total of \$1 million against Jerry Ganz Jr. only. The Ganz family also donated an additional \$500,000 to a treatment facility in Los Angeles, in memory of ASean Murphy@ for the care and treatment of elderly skid row veterans.

The case was settled with Jerry Ganz Jr., Ridge Stone Financial LLC and Timmy Gateway Trust, through its trustees. The plaintiff is continuing her claims against Ganz Sr., to which he is being defended by his attorney under his \$10 million umbrella policy.