



# Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings

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## Punitive Damage Awards in Large Counties, 2001

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### Introduction

Punitive damages are awarded when the defendant's conduct is determined to have been so "willful, malicious, or fraudulent" that it exceeds the legal criteria for mere or gross negligence. Punitive damages typically involve awards over and above the compensatory damage award. In such cases, unlike other forms of damage relief afforded to plaintiffs, punitive damages serve as a means for "punishing the defendant" and "detering others" from committing actions similar to the defendant's conduct (*Black's Law Dictionary*, Prosser & Keeton Torts, 5th Edition, 1984).

This report focuses on general civil (tort, contract, and real property) bench and jury trials that produced a punitive damage award in the Nation's 75 most populous counties in 2001.

### Types of civil cases receiving punitive damages

- In 2001, 6%, or 356, of the 6,504 civil trials with plaintiff winners in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties resulted in punitive damage awards.
- The types of tort cases in which plaintiff winners were most likely to receive punitive damages included slander/libel (58%), intentional torts (36%), and false arrest/imprisonment (26%) cases.

- Contract cases with the highest percentage of plaintiff winners awarded punitive damages included partnership disputes (22%), employment discrimination (18%), and fraud (17%) cases.

### Punitive damage award amounts

- Plaintiff winners received \$50,000 or more in punitive damages in half of the estimated 356 civil trials concluded in 2001 with punitive damage awards.
- 41 trials, or 12%, of the 356 civil trials with punitive damages, had punitive damage awards that equaled or surpassed \$1 million. In 9 of these 356 civil trials, the punitive awards totaled \$10 million or more.
- The median award for the 138 contract trials with punitive damages was \$83,000; in comparison, the 217 tort trials with punitive damages garnered median damages of \$25,000.

### Comparing compensatory to punitive damages

- Punitive damages exceeded compensatory awards in 39% of the 356 civil trials with punitive damages.
- Punitive awards exceeded compensatory awards in 40% of the 217 tort trials and in 38% of the 138 contract trials in which a plaintiff received punitive damages.
- Punitive damages were more than 4 times greater than the compensatory awards in 17 intentional tort trials, 10 slander/libel trials, and 7 automobile trials.

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Each of these tort case types had median compensatory awards that were under \$40,000.

### **Punitive damages in jury and bench trials**

- Plaintiffs who prevailed in civil trials concluded in 2001 received punitive damages in 6% of jury trials and 4% of bench trials.
- The median punitive damage awards for plaintiff winners did not differ significantly between civil jury (\$50,000) and bench (\$46,000) trials.
- Of the 260 jury trials in which a plaintiff winner was awarded punitive damages, 14% resulted in a punitive award verdict of \$1 million or more. Punitive damages of \$1 million or more were awarded in 2% of the 79 bench trials with punitive damages.

### **Litigant pairings in punitive damage cases**

- The two most common types of litigant pairings in civil trials with punitive awards involved individuals suing either other individuals (44%) or businesses (30%).
- In over 80% of the 217 tort trials in which plaintiffs won punitive damages, the plaintiffs were individuals suing other individuals (59%) or businesses (26%).
- In nearly a third of the 138 contract trials in which plaintiff winners were awarded punitive damages, the plaintiffs were businesses who had either successfully sued other businesses (19%) or individuals (13%).

### **Post trial activity in civil trials with punitive damages**

- Plaintiffs filed motions for post trial relief in 11% of civil trials in which punitive damages were awarded, while defendants requested post trial relief in 40% of civil trials with punitive damages.
- Motions for new trials or award modifications were the most common types of post trial relief sought by plaintiff winners receiving punitive damages.
- Among cases in which the defendant sought post trial relief in light of a punitive damage award, a new trial was the most common form of relief sought.

- The courts granted relief in 47% of the 36 civil trials where plaintiffs sought to have their damage award increased or modified in some way.

- Post trial relief was granted to about 28% of the 138 defendants who sought to modify a trial with a punitive damage award. In nearly half of these trials (49%), the relief granted was in the form of an award modification.

### **Notice of appeals in civil trials with punitive damages**

- Plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal to an intermediate appellate court or State court of last resort in 7%, or 26, of the 354 civil trials in which they won punitive damages.
- Defendants filed a notice of appeal in nearly a third (30%) of the 354 civil trials where the prevailing plaintiff was awarded punitive damages. Defendants appealed 22% of tort trials and 41% of contract trials that had a plaintiff winner receiving punitive damages.

### **Trends in punitive damage awards in civil jury trials, 1992-2001**

- The percentage of general civil jury trials with plaintiff winners in the Nation's 75 largest counties that produced a punitive damage award was the same in 1992 (6%) and 2001 (6%).
- Plaintiff winners garnered punitive damage awards at similar rates in tort jury trials during the 1992 (4%) and 2001 (5%) study periods. In contract jury trials, the percentage of plaintiff winners who received a punitive damage award has declined slightly from 13% in 1992 to 10% in 2001.
- The median punitive damage awards in civil jury trials was \$63,000 in 1992 and \$50,000 in 2001.
- The percentages of plaintiff winners in civil jury trials awarded punitive damages of \$1 million or more in 1992 (12%) and 2001 (14%) were not significantly different.
- In 1992 punitive awards exceeded compensatory awards in 43% of the 364 civil jury trials in which a plaintiff winner was awarded punitive damages. In 2001 punitive awards were greater than compensatory awards in 41% of the 260 civil jury trials with punitive damages.

**Table 1. Punitive damage awards in civil trials with plaintiff winners in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties, 2001**

Case type	Number of civil trials	Number of trials	Plaintiff winners <sup>a</sup>	
			Number	Percent of trials
All civil trials <sup>b</sup>	11,908	6,504	356	5.5%
<b>Tort trials</b>	7,948	4,080	217	5.3%
Automobile	4,235	2,581	54	2.1
Premises liability	1,268	520	8	1.5
Product liability	158	70	3	4.3
Asbestos	31	19	2	10.5
Other	126	51	1	2.0
Intentional tort	375	214	78	36.4
Medical malpractice	1,156	307	15	4.9
Professional malpractice	102	51	7	13.7
Slander/libel	95	40	23	57.5
Animal attack	99	66	6	9.1
Conversion	27	13	3	23.1
False arrest, imprisonment	45	19	5	26.3
Other or unknown tort	390	200	16	8.0
<b>Contract trials</b>	3,698	2,375	138	5.8%
Fraud	625	360	60	16.7
Seller plaintiff	1,208	925	9	1.0
Buyer plaintiff	793	485	16	3.3
Employment discrimination	166	74	13	17.6
Other employment dispute	287	157	16	10.2
Rental/lease	276	176	9	5.1
Tortious interference	138	82	9	11.0
Partnership dispute	40	18	4	22.2
Other or unknown contract	73	41	2	4.9
<b>Real property trials</b>	262	49	1	2.0%

Note: Data on punitive damages were available for 97.7% of plaintiff winners. In this study, cases are classified by the primary case type, though many cases involve multiple claims (that is, contract and tort). Under laws in almost all States, only tort claims qualify for punitive damages. If contract or real property cases involved punitive damages, they involved a tortious element as part of the claim. No punitive damages were awarded in mortgage foreclosure or subrogation cases. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>The percentage of plaintiff winners awarded punitive damages was calculated by dividing the number of civil trials in which plaintiff winners were awarded punitive damages (356) by the total number of civil trials with plaintiff winners (6,504).

<sup>b</sup>The number of trial cases includes bench and jury trials, trials with a directed verdict, judgments notwithstanding the verdict, and jury trials for defaulted defendants.

**Table 2. Punitive damage awards in civil trials with plaintiff winners in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties, 2001**

Case type	Civil trials with plaintiff winners awarded punitive damages				
	Number	Amount of punitive damages awarded		Number of trials with punitive damages	
		Median	Maximum	\$1 million or more	\$10 million or more
All civil trials <sup>a</sup>	356	\$50,000	\$364,500,000	41	9
<b>Tort trials</b>	217	\$25,000	\$100,000,000	23	5
Automobile	54	5,000	30,000,000	7	1
Premises liability	8	33,000	160,000	--	--
Product liability	3	433,000	500,000	--	--
Asbestos	2	500,000	500,000	--	--
Other	1	150,000*	150,000*	--	--
Intentional tort	78	16,000	4,500,000	9	--
Medical malpractice	15	187,000	75,000,000	2	2
Professional malpractice	7	1,000	40,000	--	--
Slander/libel	23	77,000	700,000	--	--
Animal attack	6	68,000	135,000	--	--
Conversion	3	100,000	100,000	--	--
False arrest, imprisonment	5	8,000	100,000	--	--
Other or unknown tort	16	470,000	100,000,000	4	1
<b>Contract trials</b>	138	\$83,000	\$364,500,000	18	5
Fraud	60	63,000	275,000,000	5	2
Seller plaintiff	9	4,000	230,000	--	--
Buyer plaintiff	16	275,000	5,000,000	3	--
Employment discrimination	13	606,000	3,500,000	5	--
Other employment dispute	16	151,000	1,500,000	1	--
Rental/lease	9	15,000	1,200,000	2	--
Tortious interference	9	83,000	364,500,000	1	1
Partnership dispute	4	186,000	14,000,000	1	1
Other or unknown contract	2	1,000	1,000	--	--
<b>Real property trials<sup>b</sup></b>	1	\$70,000*	\$70,000*	--	--

Note: Data on punitive damages were available for 97.7% of plaintiff winners. In this study, cases are classified by the primary case type, though many cases involve multiple claims (that is, contract and tort). Under laws in almost all States, only tort claims qualify for punitive damages. If contract or real property cases involved punitive damages, they involved a tortious element as part of the claim. No punitive damages were awarded in mortgage foreclosure or subrogation cases. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. Award data were rounded to the nearest thousand.

\*Not median or maximum but the actual amount awarded.

--No cases recorded.

<sup>a</sup>The number of trial cases includes bench and jury trials, trials with a directed verdict, judgments notwithstanding the verdict, and jury trials for defaulted defendants.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes eminent domain cases.

**Table 3. Comparing compensatory to punitive damage awards in civil trials with plaintiff winners in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties, 2001**

Case type	Number of trials with punitive damages <sup>a</sup>	Median damage award amounts		Number of punitive damage trials with punitive awards —	
		Compensatory <sup>b</sup>	Punitive	Greater than compensatory damage awards	More than 4 times the compensatory damage awards
All civil trials	356	\$80,000	\$50,000	138	50
<b>Tort trials</b>	217	\$36,000	\$25,000	86	39
Automobile	54	26,000	5,000	13	7
Premises liability	8	84,000	33,000	3	--
Product liability	3	16,562,000	433,000	--	--
Asbestos	2	20,000,000	500,000	--	--
Other	1	2,000,000*	150,000*	--	--
Intentional tort	78	15,000	16,000	37	17
Medical malpractice	15	757,000	187,000	4	1
Professional malpractice	7	40,000	1,000	--	--
Slander/libel	23	36,000	77,000	17	10
Animal attack	6	183,000	68,000	--	--
Conversion	3	93,000	100,000	3	--
False arrest, imprisonment	5	300	8,000	3	3
Other or unknown tort	16	171,000	470,000	7	1
<b>Contract trials</b>	138	\$160,000	\$83,000	52	10
Fraud	60	119,000	63,000	16	2
Seller plaintiff	9	339,000	4,000	--	--
Buyer plaintiff	16	160,000	275,000	13	3
Employment discrimination	13	493,000	606,000	6	--
Other employment dispute	16	150,000	151,000	10	--
Rental/lease	9	20,000	15,000	4	2
Tortious interference	9	889,000	83,000	3	3
Partnership dispute	4	2,307,000	186,000	--	--
Other or unknown contract	2	6,000	1,000	--	--
<b>Real property trials<sup>c</sup></b>	1	\$280,000*	\$70,000*	--	--

Note: Data on punitive damages were available for 97.7% of plaintiff winners. No punitive damages were awarded in mortgage foreclosure or subrogation cases. Award data were rounded to the nearest \$1,000. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

The median award amount of \$300 for false arrest/imprisonment trials was not rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

\*Not median but the actual amount awarded.

--No cases recorded.

<sup>a</sup>The number of trials includes bench and jury trials, trials with a directed verdict, judgments notwithstanding the verdict, and jury trials for defaulted defendants.

<sup>b</sup>Compensatory damages do not include reductions.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes eminent domain cases.

**Table 4. Comparing bench and jury trials in which plaintiff winners received punitive damage awards in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties, 2001**

	Jury	Bench
<b>How many civil trials with plaintiff winners were decided by a jury or judge?</b>		
All trials with plaintiff winners	4,617	1,794*
<b>What percentage of prevailing plaintiffs were awarded punitive damages?<sup>a</sup></b>		
All civil trials	5.7%	4.4%*
Tort trials	4.5	10.7*
Contract trials	10.1	2.8*
<b>What were the median punitive damages awarded?<sup>b</sup></b>		
All civil trials <sup>c</sup>	\$50,000	\$46,000
<b>What percentage of punitive damage awards were \$1 million or more?</b>		
All civil trials <sup>c</sup>	13.9%	2.3%*

Note: There were 16 other trials including directed verdicts, judgments notwithstanding the verdict, and jury trials for defaulted defendants in which punitive damages were awarded to the plaintiff winner. These "other" trials were not included in this table.

\*Jury-bench difference is significant at the 95%-confidence interval.

<sup>a</sup>In jury trials, the percentage of plaintiff winners awarded punitive damages was calculated by dividing the number of civil jury trials in which plaintiff winners were awarded punitive damages (260) by the total number of civil jury trials with plaintiff winners (4,617). In bench trials, the percentage of plaintiff winners awarded punitive damages was calculated by dividing the number of civil bench trials in which plaintiff winners were awarded punitive damages (79) by the total number of civil bench trials with plaintiff winners (1,794).

<sup>b</sup>Punitive damage award data were available for 97.9% of jury trials and 97.1% of bench trials.

<sup>c</sup>The median and \$1 million dollar award statistics were calculated from the 260 jury and 79 bench civil trials in which the prevailing plaintiff was awarded punitive damages.

**Table 5. Pairings of primary litigants in civil trials with punitive damages in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties, 2001**

Civil trials with punitive awards	Number	Plaintiffs			
		Individual	Government <sup>a</sup>	Business <sup>b</sup>	Hospital <sup>c</sup>
<b>All civil trials</b>					
Individual only defendant	176	44.1%	0.3%	6.1%	--
Government defendant <sup>a</sup>	19	5.0	--	--	0.3
Business defendant <sup>b</sup>	143	30.2	1.2	9.1	0.3
Hospital defendant <sup>c</sup>	11	3.2	--	--	--
<b>All tort trials</b>					
Individual only defendant	131	58.8%	0.5%	1.8%	--
Government defendant <sup>a</sup>	13	5.4	--	--	0.5
Business defendant <sup>b</sup>	63	25.7	0.9	2.9	--
Hospital defendant <sup>c</sup>	7	3.5	--	--	--
<b>All contract trials</b>					
Individual only defendant	45	20.8%	--	13.2%	--
Government defendant <sup>a</sup>	6	4.4	--	--	--
Business defendant <sup>b</sup>	78	36.8	1.6	19.3	0.9
Hospital defendant <sup>c</sup>	4	2.9	--	--	--

Note: Data on litigant pairings were available for 98.1% of the 356 civil trials, 99.1% of the 217 tort trials, and 96.5% of the 138 contract trials with punitive damages. Plaintiff or defendant type for each case is whichever type appears first in this list: (1) hospital/medical company; (2) corporate/business; (3) government agencies; (4) individuals.

--No cases recorded.

<sup>a</sup>Includes law enforcement and other governmental agencies.

<sup>b</sup>Includes insurance companies, banks, other businesses and organizations.

<sup>c</sup>Includes medical companies.

**Table 6. Type of post trial relief sought by litigants in civil trials with punitive damages awarded to plaintiff winners in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties, 2001**

Post trial relief sought by	Number of civil trials with punitive damages	Civil trials where post trial relief was sought		Type of post trial relief sought by litigants in civil trials in which punitive damages were awarded <sup>a</sup>			
		Number	Percent of trials	JNOV or amended judgment	New trial	Award modification	Other relief
<b>All civil trials<sup>b</sup></b>							
Plaintiffs	351	39	11.1%	6.1%	24.3%	54.2%	21.6%
Defendants	351	141	40.0	53.6	76.0	21.9	3.6
<b>Tort trials<sup>c</sup></b>							
Plaintiffs	215	21	9.9%	5.5%	19.1%	61.8%	13.5%
Defendants	215	65	30.1	43.4	77.5	21.6	6.0
<b>Contract trials<sup>d</sup></b>							
Plaintiffs	135	18	13.1%	6.7%	30.6%	45.1%	31.3%
Defendants	135	75	55.5	61.7	74.4	22.5	1.6

Note: Post trial motions filed by plaintiffs or defendants include motions for judgments notwithstanding the verdict (JNOV), amended judgments, new trials, award modifications, and other relief. The percentage of litigants who sought post trial relief was calculated by dividing the number of trials in which a plaintiff winner received punitive damages (351) by the number of trials in which a plaintiff (39) or defendant (141) requested post trial relief.

<sup>a</sup>The type of post trial relief sought may not sum to 100% because the post trial relief categories are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

<sup>b</sup>Data on plaintiff and defendant post trial activity were available for 98.7% of the 356 civil trials with punitive damages.

<sup>c</sup>Data on plaintiff and defendant post trial activity were available for 99.2% of the 217 tort trials with punitive damages.

<sup>d</sup>Data on plaintiff and defendant post trial activity were available for 97.9% of the 138 contract trials with punitive damages.

**Table 7. Type of post trial relief granted to litigants in civil trials with punitive damages awarded to plaintiff winners in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties, 2001**

Post trial relief sought by	Post trial relief granted in civil trials with punitive damages		Type of post trial relief granted to plaintiffs and defendants in civil trials with punitive damages <sup>a</sup>			
	Number sought <sup>b</sup>	Percent in which relief granted	JNOV or amended judgment	New trial	Award modification	Other relief
<b>All civil trials<sup>c</sup></b>						
Plaintiffs	36	46.8%	7.0%	7.0%	56.0%	30.0%
Defendants	138	27.8	13.2	21.7	48.7	19.4
<b>Tort trials<sup>d</sup></b>						
Plaintiffs	21	57.1%	--	--	68.1%	31.9%
Defendants	64	30.5	--	24.6	55.4	20.0
<b>Contract trials<sup>e</sup></b>						
Plaintiffs	15	31.9%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Defendants	73	24.5	22.8	19.8	44.2	19.8

Note: Post trial motions filed by plaintiffs or defendants include motions for judgments notwithstanding the verdict (JNOV), amended judgments, new trials, award modifications, and other relief.

--No cases recorded.

<sup>a</sup>The type of post trial relief granted may not sum to 100% because the post trial relief categories are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

<sup>b</sup>The number of litigants seeking post trial relief in table 6 differs from the number posted in table 7 because of missing or incomplete post trial relief granted data.

<sup>c</sup>Among civil trials where prevailing plaintiffs received punitive damages, data on the granting of post trial relief were available for 92.6% of the 39 trials where the plaintiff sought post trial relief and 98.0% of the 141 trials where the defendant sought post trial relief.

<sup>d</sup>Among tort trials where prevailing plaintiffs received punitive damages, data on the granting of post trial relief were available for 100% of the 21 trials where the plaintiff sought post trial relief and 98.5% of the 65 trials where the defendant sought post trial relief.

<sup>e</sup>Among contract trials where prevailing plaintiffs received punitive damages, data on the granting of post trial relief were available for 83.7% of the 18 trials where the plaintiff sought post trial relief and 97.6% of the 75 trials where the defendant sought post trial relief.

**Table 8. Civil trials with punitive damages in which the litigants gave notice of appeal in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties, 2001**

Case type	Civil trials with plaintiff winners awarded punitive damages		
	Number of trials	Number of cases appealed	
		Plaintiff	Defendant
All civil trials <sup>a</sup>	354	26	105
<b>Tort trials</b>	215	11	48
Automobile	54	1	4
Premises liability	8	--	4
Product liability <sup>b</sup>	1	--	--
Intentional tort	78	1	16
Medical malpractice	15	5	4
Professional malpractice	7	--	1
Slander/libel	23	--	10
Animal attack	6	--	--
Conversion	3	--	--
False arrest, imprisonment	5	--	5
Other or unknown tort	16	4	5
<b>Contract trials</b>	138	14	56
Fraud	60	5	23
Seller plaintiff	9	2	2
Buyer plaintiff	16	1	10
Employment discrimination	13	2	5
Other employment dispute	16	2	6
Rental/lease	9	--	6
Tortious interference	9	1	2
Partnership dispute	4	--	2
Other or unknown contract	2	--	--
<b>Real property trials<sup>c</sup></b>	1	1	1

Note: Appeals data were available for 99.5% of the 356 civil trials where the plaintiff won punitive damages. Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. No punitive damages were awarded in mortgage foreclosure or subrogation cases.

-- No cases recorded.

<sup>a</sup>Includes bench and jury trials, trials with a directed verdict, judgments notwithstanding the verdict, and jury trials for defaulted defendants.

<sup>b</sup>Product liability includes asbestos and other product liability cases.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes eminent domain cases.

**Table 9. Comparing civil jury trials in which plaintiff winners received punitive damages in State courts in the Nation's 75 largest counties, 1992 and 2001**

	1992	2001
<b>What was the number of jury trials in which the plaintiff prevailed?</b>		
All jury trials with plaintiff winners	5,990	4,617*
<b>What percentage of plaintiff winners won punitive damages?<sup>a</sup></b>		
All civil jury trials	6.1%	5.6%
Tort jury trials	4.2	4.5
Contract jury trials	12.9	10.1*
<b>How much in punitive damages did prevailing plaintiffs win?<sup>b</sup></b> (overall median punitive damage awards adjusted for inflation)		
All civil jury trials <sup>c</sup>	\$63,000	\$50,000
<b>What percentage of punitive damage awards were \$1 million or more</b>		
All civil jury trials <sup>c</sup>	12.2%	13.9%
<b>What percentage of civil jury trials with plaintiff winners had punitive damages with awards?<sup>c</sup></b>		
Greater than compensatory damage awards	43.0%	40.9%
More than 4 times the compensatory damage awards	15.4	15.7

Note: Table 9 includes civil jury trials adjudicated in 1992 and 2001. Bench trials, trials with a directed verdict, judgments notwithstanding the verdict, and jury trials for defaulted defendants have been excluded. Bench trials are not included because no award data were collected for bench trials in 1992. Data sources: Civil Justice Survey of State Courts, 1992 (ICPSR 6587) and 2001 (ICPSR 3957). Data can be obtained from the University of Michigan Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at <<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>>.

Award data were rounded to the nearest thousand.

\*1992-2001 difference is significant at the 95% confidence interval.

<sup>a</sup>For jury trials disposed of in 1992, the percentage of plaintiff winners awarded punitive damages was calculated by dividing the number of civil jury trials in which plaintiff winners were awarded punitive damages (364) by the total number of civil jury trials with plaintiff winners (5,990). For jury trials disposed of in 2001, the percentage of plaintiff winners awarded punitive damages was calculated by dividing the number of civil jury trials in which plaintiff winners were awarded punitive damages (260) by the total number of civil jury trials with plaintiff winners (4,617).

<sup>b</sup>Punitive damage award data were available for 96.8% of general civil jury trials in 1992 and 97.9% of general civil jury trials in 2001.

<sup>c</sup>The median, \$1 million dollar, and ratio award statistics were calculated from the 364 civil jury trials adjudicated in 1992 and the 260 civil jury trials adjudicated in 2001 in which the prevailing plaintiff was awarded punitive damages.



## Appendix A. Punitive damage awards for plaintiff winners in civil trials, by sampled counties, 2001

County	Number of civil trials	Plaintiff winners					
		Number of trials	Awarded punitive damages		Damage awards to plaintiff winners		
			Number	Percent	Total awards	Median awards	
Maricopa, AZ	308	172	9	5.2%	\$31,940,000	\$80,000	
Pima, AZ	95	62	6	9.7	41,000	6,000	
Alameda, CA	104	59	4	6.8	4,451,000	425,000	
Contra Costa, CA	43	18	2	11.1	25,000	13,000	
Fresno, CA	46	27	4	14.8	183,000	48,000	
Los Angeles, CA <sup>a</sup>	295	160	12	7.5	2,179,000	51,000	
Orange, CA	354	181	18	9.9	26,149,000	130,000	
San Bernardino, CA	100	46	4	8.7	3,032,000	14,000	
San Francisco, CA	144	86	4	4.7	263,000	15,000	
Santa Clara, CA	98	64	4	6.3	780,000	200,000	
Ventura, CA	81	45	2	4.4%	\$105,000	\$53,000	
Fairfield, CT	65	40	--	--	--	--	
Hartford, CT	98	55	3	5.5	629,000	150,000	
Dade, FL	334	211	7	3.3	280,450,000	500,000	
Orange, FL	45	27	2	7.4	300,000	150,000	
Palm Beach, FL	198	127	2	1.6	5,000,000	2,500,000	
Fulton, GA	126	87	5	5.7	446,000	65,000	
Honolulu, HI	24	14	3	21.4	2,501,000	500,000	
Cook, IL	397	223	4	1.8	188,000	5,000	
Du Page, IL	128	82	1	1.2	150,000*	150,000*	
Marion, IN	124	67	3	4.5%	\$510,000	\$5,000	
Jefferson, KY	154	77	4	5.2	100,000	11,000	
Essex, MA	29	11	--	--	--	--	
Middlesex, MA	118	31	2	6.5	25,000	13,000	
Suffolk, MA	52	24	1	4.2	2,750,000*	2,750,000*	
Worcester, MA	40	12	1	8.3	18,000*	18,000*	
Oakland, MI	175	97	--	--	--	--	
Wayne, MI	210	84	--	--	--	--	
Hennepin, MN	201	113	--	--	--	--	
St. Louis, MO	146	84	6	7.1	203,000	13,000	
Bergen, NJ	206	93	4	4.3%	\$370,000	\$86,000	
Essex, NJ	152	68	1	1.5	2,000*	2,000*	
Middlesex, NJ	281	104	4	3.8	555,000	27,000	
New York, NY	309	145	3	2.1	7,850,000	700,000	
Mecklenburg, NC	104	66	3	4.5	518,000	16,000	
Cuyahoga, OH	253	150	7	4.7	1,772,000	100,000	
Franklin, OH	152	94	13	13.8	4,661,000	18,000	
Allegheny, PA	321	176	3	1.7	3,051,000	41,000	
Philadelphia, PA	610	360	5	1.4	149,141,000	49,000	
Bexar, TX	120	55	5	9.1	77,062,000	200,000	
Dallas, TX	263	150	13	8.7%	\$393,296,000	\$275,000	
El Paso, TX	103	67	8	11.9	1,667,000	73,000	
Harris, TX	525	249	11	4.4	35,701,000	100,000	
Fairfax, VA	246	152	13	8.6	1,352,000	25,000	
King, WA	209	123	5	4.1	134,000	10,000	
Milwaukee, WI	125	83	3	3.6	103,000	2,000	

Note: Includes bench and jury trials, trials with a directed verdict, judgments notwithstanding the verdict, and jury trials for defaulted defendants. The percentage of plaintiff winners awarded punitive damages was calculated by dividing the number of civil trials in which plaintiff winners were awarded punitive damages by the total number of civil trials with plaintiff winners. Punitive award data were rounded to the nearest thousand. Excludes cases with missing award amounts.

--No cases recorded.

\*Not a median or total but the actual amount awarded.

<sup>a</sup>Includes only the central district of the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Los Angeles suburban courts are not included.