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## Bryan Stow beating: Jury finds Dodgers partially responsible for \$18M in damages

By Robert Jablon

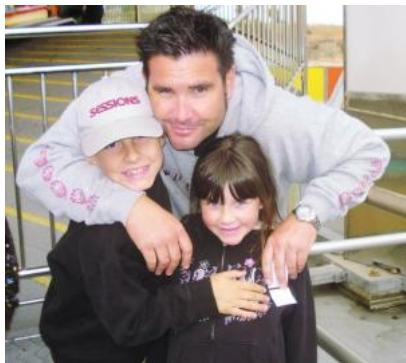
Associated Press

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LOS ANGELES (AP) -- A San Francisco Giants fan who suffered brain damage in a beating at Dodger Stadium won his negligence suit against the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday, but former owner Frank McCourt was absolved by the jury. The total means the Dodgers were ordered to pay \$15 million, according to a plaintiff's attorney.

The jury found Wednesday that Bryan Stow suffered damages for economic losses and pain and suffering totaling about \$18 million but divided responsibility for him among the Dodgers and the two men who beat him.

Plaintiff's attorney Tom Girardi says the verdict means the Dodgers must pay about \$14 million in economic losses and a quarter of the pain and suffering sum, adding \$1 million more.



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John Stow/AP This undated image provided on April 5 by John Stow shows Bryan Stow holding his 12-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter. Bryan Stow, a Giants fan who was beaten the Dodgers' 2011 home opener, suffered brain damage as a result and remains in critical condition.

in 2011 between the rival teams.

Stow's lawyers claimed the team and its former owner failed to provide adequate security at the stadium. The defense countered that security was stronger than ever opening day contest and Stow was partially to blame because he was drunk.

The 45-year-old Stow, who was left with disabling brain damage following the attack in a stadium parking lot after an opening day game between the California rivals, fans Louie Sanchez and Marvin Norwood pleaded guilty in the attack after a lengthy preliminary hearing in which witnesses said security guards were absent from the lot where Stow was attacked.

Girardi filed the lawsuit on behalf of Stow, seeking \$37.5 million for his lifetime care and compensation for lost earnings. He also urged jurors to award double the pain and suffering.

Dana Fox, the lawyer for the Dodgers and McCourt, argued that they bore no responsibility for the attack. In closing arguments, he showed jurors enlarged photos of Stow and Norwood and said they were responsible along with Stow himself.

Fox cited testimony that Stow's blood-alcohol level was .18 percent -- more than twice the legal limit for driving -- and a witness account of Stow yelling in the parking lot with his arms up in the air.

"There were three parties responsible -- Sanchez, Norwood and, unfortunately, Stow himself. There were things Mr. Stow did that put these things in action," Fox said. He added, "You don't get yourself this drunk and then say it's not your fault."

Girardi contended the team and McCourt had failed to provide enough security to keep Stow and other fans safe at the game.

Girardi had asked for more than double that sum but still considers it a victory.

Stow's father Dave Stow said the amount was "a lot better than what we had."

"He did get some money to help the future and that's what we wanted -- we wanted help," Dave Stow said. "He's not going to be 100 percent, maybe for a long time, maybe never. What he gets is going to help him through now, and that's what he needs."

"We'll make it work for him," mother Ann Stow agreed.

They said they had not spoken to their son, who did not attend the hearing, but did talk to his sisters and expected them to talk to him.

Dave Stow said his brain-damaged son probably wouldn't understand the details, "But Bryan will know that he got what he deserved."

Stow's mother said she held her husband's hand as the court read the part of the verdict in which jurors found her son partially responsible for the attack. That verdict was unanimous, unlike the other two, in which jurors split over whether the Dodgers or the two men were liable.

"I was so ecstatic because we know our son and we know that the picture the defense was trying to portray was not true at all," Ann Stow said.

The jury delivered its verdict in a Los Angeles courtroom after weeks of testimony about the assault after the opening day game between the rival teams.

"Dodger Stadium got to a place where it was a total mess," Girardi told jurors. "There was a culture of violence. Beer sales were off the charts."

He also said, "The only thing Bryan Stow was doing was wearing a jersey that said 'Giants.'"

Fox insisted Stow should receive no damages.

"We would be heartless and inhuman not to feel sympathy for Mr. Stow," Fox said. "These are life-altering injuries."

However, he reminded jurors that they had promised not to let sympathy influence their verdict.

Toward the end of the trial, Stow was brought to court in his wheelchair and positioned front and center where jurors could see the ghastly scars on his head where was temporarily removed during medical efforts to save his life.

Experts testified that Stow will never work again and has suffered repeated strokes and seizures. They said he will always require around the clock care.

AP Special Correspondent Linda Deutsch contributed to this report.

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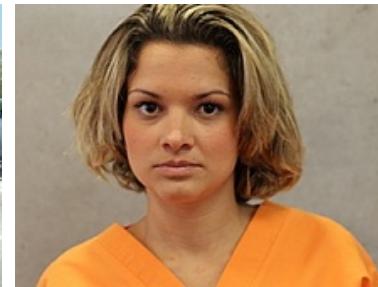
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**Jason Gates** • 8 hours ago

So now Ball-clubs are responsible for any a-holes doings. What if they did kick these jerkoffs out and they went and beat someone else up on the street? Would the team still be liable? Does this mean that anyone who gets their ass kicked at a ball bark can now sue the team? Looks like this just opened the door to frivolous lawsuits. There is no way the team could have prevented this. The Giants cant prevent fights at their ball park and neither can any other MLB team. its happened hundreds of times before and people have actually died, The only difference here is he lived and is now disabled. Its very unfortunate this happened to him even though I agree it probably was part of his own doing. What i see though is a money hungry family and lawyer going after people with money instead of those who were actually responsible. What a backwards country this is. Sickening! Those jurors were idiots!

▲ | ▾ • Reply • Share ↗



**Tim Lane** • 18 hours ago

Not bad. Tickets to Dodger games will only increase by \$3.74 on average to pay for this fiasco. Dodger fans, you are the fools paying for this guy's drunken outt 1 ▲ | ▾ • Reply • Share ↗



**Mr. Sarcastic** • 19 hours ago

'The rest of the responsibility was split between the two men who beat fan Bryan Stow.'

Yeah, those two guys look like they have several mutual fund and retirement accounts that can be tapped to come up with \$14 million they owe... LOL 3 ▲ | ▾ • Reply • Share ↗



**MarsHelper** • 19 hours ago

Of course the Dodgers are partially to blame. What do you expect when you sell alcohol at the stadium? It would be better if they banned alcohol and sold pot b instead.

1 ▲ | ▾ • Reply • Share ↗



**1coolguy** • 19 hours ago

I am glad he will receive some compensation, yet frankly, it sure appears he and the 2 attackers were to blame. Getting drunk and wearing another teams jersey good combination: That does NOT excuse the beating, yet certainly was complicit.

I hope the other 2 are jailed for many years as well as having to pay whatever compensation.

Unfortunately, as usual , the only winners here are the ATTORNEYS. America's sad state of affairs.

3 ▲ | ▾ • Reply • Share ↗



**Word Smith** • 19 hours ago

And to think that our sports fans are actually less violent than soccer fans. Watching sports, and especially "rooting" for the home team is for the emotionally an intellectually crippled. When your team is your life, you have no life. Extra credit if you drink and gamble while watching.

Here's an idea; get off your backside and PLAY some sports. Much more fun and healthier than watching.

4 ▲ | ▾ • Reply • Share ↗



**Winterbourne** • 19 hours ago

Competitive Sports are analogies for war and battle. Are we surprised with this violent outcome?

2 ▲ | ▾ • Reply • Share ↗



**JI89996g** • 19 hours ago

The team DOES have a responsibility to provide security. This should help with that message. I have been to some venues I will not revisit, but not having secu negligence.

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**2nd Chance Photo** • 19 hours ago

This is why I'll never go to another sporting event or concert. The world has gone crazy.

2 ▲ | ▼ • Reply • Share

**MiguelSaavedra1** • 19 hours ago

I saw Celtics fan get his head run over in Sun's parking lot in Phoenix years back. Fellas, it's a game, not a blood Holy War.

6 ▲ | ▼ • Reply • Share

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