

## Vanessa Stewart v. Yellow Cab Cooperative Inc., dba Yellow Cab Co., Ram Chandra

Dhokal and Does 1-20 (CGC-09-4844006)

**Judge:** Hon. Alfred Chiantelli

**Court:** San Francisco Superior

**TOPIC:** Personal Injury (Vehicular)

**SUB TOPIC:** Auto v. Pedestrian

**FURTHER DESCRIPTION:** Negligence

**SETTLEMENT:** \$937,500

**ATTORNEY:** Plaintiff - Sally Morin (Sally Morin PC, San Francisco).

**Defendant -** John A. Noda (Kern, Noda, Devine & Segal, San Francisco).

**MEDICAL:**

**Plaintiff -** EllyLaRoque, M.D., orthopedic surgery, San Francisco;  
Stephen Van Pelt, M.D., orthopedic surgery, San Francisco;  
Daniel Zinar, M.D., orthopedic surgery, Torrance.

**Defendant -** Thomas G. Sampson, M.D., orthopedic surgery, San Francisco.

**FACTS:** On Feb. 8, 2007, a Yellow Cab operated by Ram Dhokal hit Vanessa Stewart when she was walking within a crosswalk in San Francisco. Stewart was thrown onto the cab's hood, and then plummeted to the ground. Dhokal kept driving until passengers in the cab advised him to stop. Stewart filed an action alleging negligent operation of motor vehicle and vicarious liability against Dhokal and Yellow Cab respectively.

**PLAINTIFF'S CONTENTIONS:** Plaintiff claimed that defendant Dhokal turned left into the crosswalk while Stewart was walking in it on a green light.

**DEFENDANTS' CONTENTIONS:** Defendant did not dispute liability at mediation, but earlier claimed at his deposition that plaintiff 'ran' into his cab.

**INJURIES:** Plaintiff suffered arthritis, contusion, cortisone injections, ear injury, pelvis fracture, hardware implanted, lacerations, creeps, shoulder injury, and pubic symphysis. Also, plaintiff required surgery and physical therapy.

**RESULT:** Plaintiff sought \$53,369 in past medical costs, \$34,609 in future medical costs, and \$3,600 for lost tuition.

**Offer:** \$65,000.00

**Demand:** \$1,591,578.14

**SETTLEMENT at mediation:** \$937,500.00

