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Cook jury awards \$10.5M in fatal police chase

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A Cook County jury awarded \$10.5 million to the family of a man who was killed by a car fleeing police in a high-speed chase in Chicago.

On April 13, 2018, Tuong Lam, 61, was driving on Devon Avenue near the intersection at Kedzie Avenue in Lincolnwood.

At the same time, three Chicago police officers were pursuing a different vehicle in the area for a traffic violation.

According to the plaintiff's attorneys, the officers did not contact their supervisors on the radio about the chase, which is part of Chicago Police Department policy.

They pursued the fleeing car in a high-speed chase for about 1.5 miles before it crashed head-on into the side of Lam's car.

The attorneys said the vehicle fleeing police was going about 90 miles per

hour and traveling the wrong way down a one-way street.

Lam had to be cut out of his car and died shortly after from internal bleeding, the attorneys noted.

Annie Lam, as the independent administrator of Lam's estate, filed wrongful death and survival claims against the city in Cook County Circuit Court.

The complaint alleged police demonstrated a conscious disregard for Lam's safety by proceeding at speeds that created unwarranted danger, and by initiating and continuing the chase when the level of inherent danger outweighed the necessity to apprehend the suspect, among other claims.

The case went to trial Aug. 11 before Cook County Circuit Court Associate Judge Bridget J. Hughes.

The jury returned a verdict in favor of Lam's estate Tuesday.

The award covers loss of society, grief, sorrow and mental suffering, as well



William T. Gibbs



Michael D. Ditore

as conscious pain and suffering as a result of the injuries.

The estate is represented by William T. Gibbs and Michael D. Ditore of Corboy & Demetrio.

"Mr. Lam was really an amazing husband and father, and as we told the jury the embodiment of the American dream," Ditore said. "He came to the country in the early 80s from Vietnam and worked tirelessly to build a life here and he raised a beautiful family here. I'd say the jury verdict reflected his quality as a person and the massive

loss that this family suffered due to reckless conduct of the city."

The city is represented by assistant corporation counsel Natalie J. Killion with the City of Chicago Law Department, Torts Division, as well as Barrett E. Boudreaux and Shawn W. Barnett of Hale & Monico LLC.

"The Department of Law is reviewing the verdict and assessing its legal options," spokesperson for the city's Law Department Kristen Cabanban said in a written statement.

The case is *Lam v. City of Chicago*, 19 L 3062.