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SETTLEMENT RESULT: \$245,000

PREMISES LIABILITY

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SETTLEMENT—Tenant injures back when she slips on wet stairs outside her apartment

PREMISES LIABILITY

Slip/Trip & Fall : Slippery Surface/Stairs/Residential Property

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Canlas v. Wong, No. BC210813, Downtown. Madeleine I. Flier. Settlement date: 1/4/2000.

SETTLEMENT RESULT: \$245,000

COUNSEL

Plaintiff: Scott J. Corwin, Law Offices of Scott J. Corwin, Los Angeles.

Defendant: Robert G. Brewer, Barry Bartholomew & Associates, Glendale.

FACTS/CONTENTIONS

According to plaintiff: On June 25, 1998, plaintiff, a 47-year-old secretary, was leaving her apartment when she slipped down the stairway. Plaintiff alleged she slipped because the steps were wet, and that the 85-year-old apartment manager was washing the grounds with a garden hose.

Plaintiff alleged defendant was negligent in washing the steps with a hose, failing to dry them off, and failing to provide tenants with adequate warnings of the slippery condition of the steps.

Defendant disputed liability, contending that it was not negligent and claimed that the steps were not slippery even when wet.

Defendant further disputed the nature and extent of plaintiff's claimed injuries and disputed that plaintiff required lower back surgery.

CLAIMED INJURIES

According to plaintiff: Plaintiff sustained a lumbosacral sprain, with herniated lumbar disks at L4-L5 and L5-S1. Plaintiff suffered sprains of the left wrist, elbow, and shoulder, and a left thigh contusion with substantial bruising and swelling, requiring physical therapy, epidural injections, and future surgery.

CLAIMED DAMAGES

According to plaintiff: \$23,208 past medical; \$50,000 future medical; \$3,929 lost income.

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS

According to plaintiff: Plaintiff initially demanded \$250,000, and defendant denied the claim. After the defense expert inspected the scene and determined that the steps were slippery when wet, defendant extended an offer of \$175,000.

EXPERTS

None.

COMMENTS

According to plaintiff: This case was filed May 24, 1999. The case settled approximately seven months after filing.