

Employer Convicted in Worker's Death

A construction company and its owner were convicted this week in Los Angeles Superior Court of willfully violating the Construction Safety Orders on fall protection and floor openings, leading to the death of a worker in 2002.

Jose Jasso, 43, was killed in April 2002 when he fell 40 feet through a floor opening while doing sheeting work on the fifth floor of an apartment building under construction.

His employer, Brian Larrabure, 45, owner of BLF, Inc., was convicted under Labor Code §6425(a), as was the company itself. Sentencing in the case has been continued until Sept. 20. Larrabure faces possible jail time and/or a hefty fine, and the company could be fined up to \$1.5 million.

Three other defendants, Casden Builders, Inc., Timothy Lamar, 53, of Canyon County, a Casden site superintendent, and BLF employee Eliseo Estrada, 48, of Hawaiian Gardens, pled no contest to similar charges prior to the six-week trial that ended July 20.

BLF and Larrabure were charged with willfully permitting Jasso to work in unsafe conditions with no fall protection, guardrails or floor-opening covers.