

## **Superior Court Jury Hands MTA Victory in \$500,000 Accidental Death Lawsuit**

(Jan. 4) A Superior Court jury recently handed the MTA a major victory in a \$500,000 lawsuit brought by the widow of a man killed last March while walking along the Metro Blue Line tracks in downtown LA.

Billy Ray Hughes was walking between the tracks and a metal rail with his back turned to the eastbound train when he was struck. Evidence presented during the trial showed that Hughes made no attempt to move out of the way when the train operator blew his horn, sounded his gong and applied the train's full service braking system.

### **Proper warning signs**

An investigation also had shown there were proper warning signs about the use of pedestrian crosswalks in the accident area near the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Adair Street.

In her lawsuit, Hughes' widow named the MTA, the County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles and the train operator. She claimed the defendants had failed to warn of a dangerous condition or a hazardous pedestrian crossing area and that the operator was negligent in operating the train.

The MTA prevailed in the lawsuit, winning on an 11-to-1 jury verdict.

[Back to MTA Report](#)