

Celebrity Cruises Employee, Who Broke Leg In Fight With Crew Member, Wins \$2.5M

By John Pacenti

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A Miami-Dade jury has awarded \$2.5 million to a former employee of Miami-based Celebrity Cruises for injuries he suffered when he was attacked by a fellow crew member in a fight over cabin linens.

Vincent J. Fernandes suffered a fractured leg when he was thrown into a trolley by the irate crew member in September 2009, according to the negligence lawsuit. The crew member was angry because Fernandes was getting linen as his job required as an assistant stateroom attendant.

Celebrity "created a hostile working environment by failing to have enough linens," the complaint stated. The situation caused workers "to compete for necessary linens before they ran out."

The jury on Friday awarded Fernandes \$1.75 million in damages plus \$750,000 for medical expenses and lost wages.

Fernandes was represented by Ervin A. Gonzalez and Christopher Drury of Colson Hicks Eidson in Coral Gables and **Tonya Meister of Meister Law** in Miami.

Celebrity was represented by David Horr and Eduardo Hernandez of Horr, Novak & Skipp in Miami.

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