

## PUBLIC JUSTICE E-LERT

AMERICA'S PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FIRM

November 12, 2010

"I am so happy that the jury understood what the state had done," Vanessa Castaneda said. "I just felt that they were voting for justice."

Many of you know the story: Vanessa's father, Francisco Castaneda, died in 2008 of penile cancer. Before his death, he spent over two years in California and U.S. custody, and while doctors repeatedly urged a biopsy his cancer went untreated.

Public Justice has already fought all the way to the Supreme Court, and this week, concluding a 13-day trial against the state, the jurors awarded \$1.73 million to Vanessa. She said that the state's neglect had deprived her of a promising future with her father. An April 2011 trial date is set for a separate lawsuit against the U.S. government and federal officials, who have already admitted medical negligence in Francisco's death.



Vanessa Castaneda holding a t-shirt she made for her 2-year-old son, Jovan, the day after the verdict

Our tireless legal team includes co-lead counsel and Board Member [Conal Doyle](#) of Willoughby Doyle, LLP; co-lead counsel and Public Justice Managing Attorney [Adele Kimmel](#); Past President and Board Member Thomas Dempsey; and Public Justice's Goldberg Attorney [Amy Radon](#) and Brayton-Thornton Attorney [Melanie Hirsch](#).

This verdict has been picked up by news outlets all over the country (and even [Canada](#)), including the [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Star-Tribune](#) (Minneapolis-St. Paul), [Lexington](#)

[Herald-Leader](#) (Kentucky), and on [Yahoo! News](#) and [Salon.com](#), among other print and online sources.

The story is a sad one -- and it is not over (the federal trial is next) -- but, as Vanessa said, the jury voted for justice.

It was your support that made that possible.

Arthur Bryant

Executive Director

Public Justice and the  
Public Justice Foundation

email: [abryant@publicjustice.net](mailto:abryant@publicjustice.net)

voice: 202-797-8600

web: <http://www.publicjustice.net>