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PRESS RELEASE

COHEN WILLIAMS WINS JURY TRIAL AFTER NINE-YEAR LEGAL BATTLE OVER UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR CLAIM AGAINST TOP LOS ANGELES INTERIOR DESIGNER

On April 29, 2022, after a two-week jury trial before the Honorable Craig Karlan in Los Angeles Superior Court (Santa Monica Courthouse), the jury sided with Cohen Williams LLP's client, an interior designer, in a fiercely contested, longstanding dispute against the owner of a Beverly Hills home that CW's client helped transform into a sophisticated mid-century modern showplace.

In 2013, CW's client sued the homeowner for breach of contract when he failed to pay some of her invoices. In response, the homeowner countersued, claiming that CW's client violated Contractor State Licensing Law by working as an unlicensed contractor, fraudulently overbilled him, negligently damaged his home, and breached their contract. The homeowner sought in excess of a million dollars in damages, including full disgorgement of everything he paid CW's client, the amount of purported overcharges, and costs of repair, plus punitive damages.

Following Cohen Williams's presentation of its client's case, the homeowner, in the middle of trial, dropped his negligence and punitive damages claims. The jury then delivered CW's client and the Cohen Williams team a resounding victory on the homeowner's remaining causes of action. Jurors provided CW's client nearly a full recovery on her breach of contract claim, and awarded the homeowner nothing on any of his counterclaims, including finding that CW's client did not perform unlicensed contractor services or breach the parties' agreement. CW's client will be filing a motion for her attorney's fees as the prevailing party under her contract.

CW's client was represented at trial by a Cohen Williams team consisting of managing partner and lead counsel Marc Williams and counsel Neil Jahss.

Mr. Williams said: "What started out as a simple collections case turned into a nightmare that tortured our client for nearly a decade. We are thrilled that we could bring our client some much needed peace, long-overdue compensation, and the recognition that she performed her role as an interior designer in a manner that was consistent with Contractor State Licensing Law."

CW's client was thrilled with the result: "I'm deeply grateful to Marc [Williams], Neil [Jahss], and the entire Cohen Williams team. They fought for me and my livelihood. Without them, and their empathy, doggedness, and brilliant advocacy, I would have been financially ruined."