

# *\$256 Million Verdict Rendered*

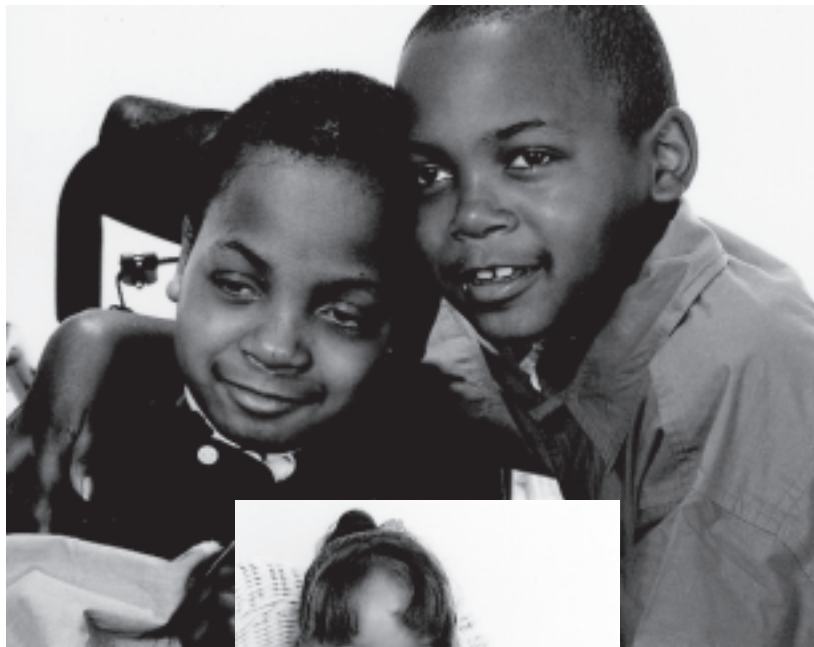
**O**n July 11, a Palm Beach County jury rendered a \$256 million verdict on behalf of Kathy and Torrey Jenkins, who lost a daughter and whose two sons were paralyzed in a tragic car crash in 1997.

We previously reported the tragic story of the Jenkins family. Kathy Jenkins was driving home with her children in May 1997 when Andrew Cohan, a uniformed but off-duty Riviera Beach Police Officer, slammed into her car at an intersection. Jasmine Jenkins, age six, was killed. Landon, age three, was paralyzed from the bottom of the skull down, and his twin brother Jordan suffered a brain injury and paralysis to one side of his body.

Suit was filed on behalf of the Jenkins family against Ranger Construction, which was designing and reconstructing the intersection where the crash occurred. Palm Beach County was also sued for its control and participation in the construction project. Finally, Mr. Cohan was sued for speeding through the construction zone, as was the police department for which he worked.

On Jan. 24, 2001, a Palm Beach County jury, following a trial on liability only, apportioned 50% fault to Ranger Construction, which was designing the roadway at the time. Palm Beach County was found 43% at fault, and Mr. Cohan was found 7% at fault. Prior to trial, the Riviera Beach Police Department was excused from the proceedings.

Soon after the liability trial was concluded, a second trial was set to determine the damages suffered by the Jenkins family. Days before that trial began, Ranger Con-



**L. to r.  
Landon and  
Jordan Jenkins  
in June 2001.**



**Jasmine Jenkins  
three weeks before  
the accident in  
April 1997.**

struction and Palm Beach County settled for \$57 million. Andrew Cohan did not participate in those negotiations. Consequently, trial commenced against all parties to determine Mr. Cohan's responsibility to the Jenkins family. On July 11, a Palm Beach County jury rendered a \$256 million verdict for the plaintiffs. A judgment was then entered against Mr. Cohan for his proportionate share of that award. ■