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Restaurant Patron Shot by Robber Wins \$2.9 Million

By MYRNA OLIVER, *Times Staff Writer*

A Superior Court jury has awarded \$2,879,000 to a Jack-in-the-Box customer who was shot in the head by a teen-age robber after obeying an employee's plea to "stop him."

Keith Forrand, 30, an auto machinist who suffered brain damage, partial loss of sight in one eye and total deafness in one ear, still has a .22-caliber rifle bullet lodged in his brain.

He sued Jack-in-the-Box for negligence for involving a customer in a dangerous altercation with a robber and failing to warn that the robber was armed, in direct violation of company rules to avoid such confrontations.

However, Forrand's lawyer, Lawrence P. Grassini, said that Monday's jury verdict before Van Nuys Superior Court Judge Fred Rimerman does not mean that every victim of a purse snatching is responsible for injuries to anyone aiding the victim, as attorneys for Jack-in-the-Box had argued.

"This is a restaurant which had given employees written instructions not to involve anyone in robberies, and then this clerk got (Forrand) involved and never

warned him the robber had a gun," Grassini said. "The Jack-in-the-Box memo starts: 'Don't be a hero. Give the robber anything he wants. They are usually armed and always dangerous and could cause physical harm to you, your co-employees or customers.'"

Forrand had stopped for coffee at the drive-in restaurant on his way to work in Glendale on the morning of Nov. 17, 1977. When the counter girl screamed, "Stop him," he jumped back in his car, chased the youth for about a block and was shot when he confronted him.

"He just thought it was the right thing to do. He thought the boy hadn't paid for his food," Grassini said.

The 15-year-old robber made off with \$81.39. He was later arrested and served eight months in the California Youth Authority.

Timothy B. Bradford, attorney for Jack-in-the-Box and its parent corporation, Foodmaker Inc., could not be reached for comment. He reportedly is studying the feasibility of an appeal.

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Grassini said Forrand, who has moved to Roosevelt, Utah, has been unable to work since the shooting. He said that Forrand's brain damage has caused loss of memory and deterioration of reading ability and responses and that his client's personal relationships have suffered.

"He was very pleased by the verdict," Grassini said of Forrand. "He has got a new lease on life."