



BRIAN VANDER BRUG *Los Angeles Times*

VICTIM: *Quantez Castillo suffered burns to his arm, shoulder and back when an open flame on the stove ignited his pajamas. His mother said the apartment's heater didn't work.*

Landlord Ordered to Pay Boy \$6 Million

By JEAN GUCCIONE
Times Staff Writer

Sending a strong message to landlords, a Los Angeles jury ordered the owners of a Hollywood apartment building to pay nearly \$6 million Wednesday to a 9-year-old boy who was severely burned trying to warm his hands

on the open flame of a gas stove because the apartment's heater did not work.

The jury of eight women and four men decided that Nathan Korman and Korman Center Enterprises should pay \$2.5 million in general damages plus \$3.3 million in punitive damages for failing to provide heating in the

[See Verdict, Page B14]

LOS ANGELES

\$6 million awarded against landlord

A 9-year-old boy who was badly burned while warming his hands over a stove in an unheated Hollywood apartment was awarded \$3.3 million Wednesday in a negligence lawsuit against the landlord.

The punitive damages come a week after \$2.5 million in compensatory damages was awarded last week, bringing the total award to nearly \$6 million.

Quantez Castillo was warming his hands over a stove-top flame the night of Dec. 21, 2000, when his nightshirt caught fire. He suffered second- and third-degree burns to his right hand, arm and shoulder. The apartment's heater was broken.

Superior Court jurors found that apartment owner Nathan Korman and his Korman Center Enterprises were negligent in maintaining or inspecting the heater.