

## **PUNITIVE AND COMPENSATORY DAMAGES BRIEFLY EXPLAINED**

**Punitive damages** are damages intended to deter the defendant and others from engaging in conduct similar to what formed the basis of the lawsuit. The purpose of punitive damages is not to compensate the plaintiff. These types of damages ‘punish’ the wrongfulness of the conduct.

**Compensatory damages** are paid to compensate the claimant for loss, injury, or harm suffered as a result of another's breach of duty (in a negligence claim under tort law). The intent of these damages is to return the claimant to the original position that was enjoyed before the tortious action occurred.