

TrialBarNews

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CASD Salutes Accomplishments by the Following Members:

Melissa Bobrow

Attorney Melissa Bobrow obtained not guilty verdicts on all charges in a jury trial before Hon. Judge Ronald Frazier in El Cajon. The defendant worked at the Barona Casino for 20 years, and for more than a decade as a Casino Manager. Barona created a "cash giveaway" promotion where Casino Managers would check out \$20 bills from the cash cage and hand them out to guests throughout the night. Barona accused the defendant of pocketing the cash instead of distributing it to guests. The prosecution admitted into evidence an alleged confession in which the defendant discussed having taken about \$20,000 over 5-6 months. Attorney Bobrow argued the investigation was not thorough and there was no evidence that corroborated the confession. One grand theft count and one embezzlement count were dismissed at trial. The jury found the client Not Guilty of Grand Theft and Not Guilty of Petty Theft.

Josh Gruenberg & Ben Silver

Attorneys Gruenberg and Silver represented an individual who formerly worked for a quasi-public entity. He believed his employer was retaliating against him for raising concerns of unlawful conduct, but had not been terminated at the time he hired an attorney. After retaining counsel, the individual was instructed by his attorneys to turn over proprietary documents to a local newspaper for publication. When the newspaper published the proprietary documents, employer engaged in an investigation, which employee's counsel instructed him not to cooperate with, and employer eventually terminated employee for divulging the proprietary documents. After an unsuccessful Civil Service Commission proceeding, the individual hired Gruenberg Law to prosecute a Legal Malpractice case against his former attorneys. The Legal Malpractice case settled for \$425,000 at mediation with Peter Thompson.

Russell S. Kohn and Suzanne Skolnick

Attorneys Kohn and Skolnick represented a 60-year-old man in an underinsured motorist claim against Farmers. The plaintiff was injured in a 2010 rear-end collision that occurred while he on duty as a school district security officer. He sustained back, neck, and shoulder injuries and had undergone 4 ½ years of treatment, including neck and back epidural injections and 2 lumbar radiofre-

quency ablation procedures by the time the matter reached arbitration. The claim against the underinsured motorist settled for the \$15,000 minimal policy limit. After the worker's compensation case was resolved, the case was mediated unsuccessfully with Farmers offering only \$30,000. The case then proceeded to arbitration before Judge Herbert Hoffman. Less than one week before the hearing, Farmers increased its offer to \$175,000. Judge Hoffman determined damages in the amount of \$681,606.20. After reduction for the worker's compensation benefits and the third party recovery, Judge Hoffman's net award totaled \$520,000.

William H. Naumann

Attorney Naumann represented the purchasers of a single-family home in La Jolla, CA in a case for construction defects and nondisclosures against the builder, previous sellers, seller's real estate agent, and various subcontractors/product manufacturers. The home suffered from numerous construction defects, including but not limited to defective windows and doors, and defective tubs and showers. As result of the defective components, the home also suffered from severe mold. After multiple mediations and depositions, and the use of expert opinions, Attorney Naumann was able to obtain a settlement for his client in the amount of \$721,000.000

William J. Ward

Attorney Ward represented a framer against a bonding company that had taken over a Public Works Project on behalf of a general contractor. The bonding company then refused to pay the framer and Mr. Ward sued the bonding company for breach of contract and claimed \$700,000 in damages. The bonding company counterclaimed for defective work and project delays, alleging \$3-5 million in damages. After numerous depositions, Mr. Ward made it clear that his client's work was excellent and on-time, as well as revealing possible claims against the bonding company for bad faith claims management. Mr. Ward settled the case a month before trial for \$1.475 million dollars.

CASD congratulates these members for their continuing dedication to their clients' rights and their demonstration of standards of excellence.