



Firm Settles Personal Injury Case for \$1.620 Million



From left to right: Bridgford, Gleason & Artinian Partners John Gleason, Richard Bridgford and Michael Artinian in their Newport Beach office



In October 2016, Richard Bridgford and Michael Artinian settled a personal injury case for \$1.620 million on behalf of their client who was injured when she attempted to refill an ethanol fireplace with ethanol fuel from an open-throat bottle in her office. The plaintiff suffered second and third degree burns to her neck, bilateral upper legs, abdomen and perineum, requiring surgeries. She was also treated for diverticulitis after release from the hospital. The claims made against her interior decorator, the ethanol fuel distributor and manufacturer, and the fireplace distributor were for past and future medical expenses, past and future lost income/earning capacity, and pain and suffering. The ethanol fireplace and ethanol fuel were



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suggested, purchased and installed by plaintiff's interior decorator. The fuel bottle did not have a flame arrestor on it; nor did it contain warnings about the risk of a flash fire from static electricity. Bridgford's client asserted claims against all defendants under strict product liability theories, for design defects and inadequate warnings for the ethanol fireplace and ethanol fuel bottles.

Bridgford's Support of UCI Law School's Civil Justice Research Institute Featured in Daily Journal



Richard Bridgford was quoted by the Daily Journal for his significant contribution to help establish The Civil Justice Research Institute at UCI Law School. UC Irvine law school dean Erwin Chemerinsky said on the institute's webpage: "Too often, the courthouse doors are closed to those who have suffered serious injuries and violations of their rights."

"There's nothing out there that's doing exactly what we would do" with the institute's research, Bridgford said. The timing, he said, is excellent, given what he said was a perceived unfriendliness to plaintiffs' litigation by the incoming Trump administration.

"This is when we're really going to have to go to work in fighting for those things," Bridgford said. He envisions the Institute's research being used in legislative lobbying, legal briefs and general advocacy.



Employment Law Podcast

Daily Journal's Daily Appellate Report podcast recently included Richard Bridgford and Michael Artinian to discuss the California Supreme Court's bellwether ruling, in *Augustus v. ABM Security* which paints a seemingly bright-line rule against employers requiring employees to remain on call during paid rest breaks. The court, split 5-2, with Justice Cuellar penning the majority opinion and Justices Kruger and Corrigan dissenting, found that the burden of remaining on call was such that employees could not truly rest during those state-mandated rest periods. The attorneys debated the legal footing of this ruling, its policy implications, and whether the enunciated rule is as bright as it seems.



Top: Richard Bridgford
Bottom: Michael Artinian



To listen to the podcast, [click here](#).

Bridgford, Gleason & Artinian

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