



# BGA Update

DECEMBER 2017

Bridgford Gleason & Artinian



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

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## Lawsuits Filed Against Pacific Gas and Electric Co. for Victims of Wine Country Fires

SAN FRANCISCO – [Bridgford, Gleason & Artinian](#) along with trial law firms [McNicholas & McNicholas, LLP](#) and [Frantz Law Group, APLC](#) have filed several lawsuits against Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) on behalf of victims of the Wine Country Fires, after the utility company's electrical equipment failed, igniting multiple large-scale fires. The lawsuits allege that PG&E negligently installed and maintained its electrical equipment, and failed to trim surrounding vegetation to prevent contact with its overhead power lines. Plaintiffs lost loved ones and suffered severe injuries, property damage and more.





## Lawsuits Filed Against Pacific Gas and Electric Co. for Victims of Wine Country Fires CONTINUED...

Richard Bridgford, managing partner of Bridgford Gleason & Artinian LLP said, "PG&E failed to take reasonable precautions to protect the property of homeowners from a clearly foreseeable risk, and as a result of their conscious disregard for safety, caused devastation throughout Sonoma and Napa counties."

### Background Information



On Sunday, October 8, 2017, a series of fires ignited throughout Sonoma and Napa counties, individually known as the Tubbs, Pocket, Atlas, Nuns and Patrick fires. The fires blazed uncontrollably for 11 days and nights, burning more than 210,000 acres of land, destroying more than 8,400 homes and structures, and claiming the lives of at least 41 individuals.

These massive, destructive fires ignited and blazed out of control in excess of 1,470 degrees Fahrenheit after negligently installed and maintained high-powered power lines, transformers, and electrical equipment owned, operated, and maintained by PG&E failed. This electrical hardware failure created sparks and ultimately ignited multiple large-scale fires. Due to years of neglect and failure to trim surrounding vegetation, large trees and dry vegetation had grown over and into PG&E's power lines, exacerbating the fires.

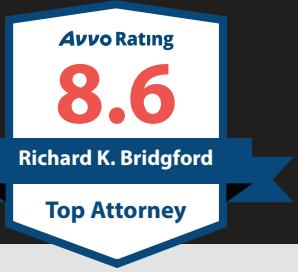
Demonstrating a pattern of conscious disregard for the safety of the public, PG&E was recently subjected to fines and penalties totaling a record \$1.6 billion by the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC), as a result of safety violations by PG&E that caused the 2010 San Bruno Fire, which was responsible for numerous deaths, injuries and destroyed homes. At the time of imposing these record fines upon PG&E, the CPUC specifically stated that the purpose for rendering such a record fine against PG&E was to "ensure that nothing like this happens again."

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## Experience to Go the Distance. Proven Results.

**\$10M+**  
**AWARD**

Represented more than 3,000 victims for property damage due to leaking pipes.

**\$5M+**  
**AWARD**

Represented victims of wrongful death in the 2003 Metrolink train crash.

**\$55M**  
**AWARD**

Floodplain claim.

**Millions**  
**RECOVERED**

from insurance carriers and brokers for underinsuring and failure to insure.

**Millions**  
**RECOVERED**

on real estate fraud claims and multiple punitive damage recoveries.

## Mass Tort Litigation

When public utility companies and other businesses fail to meet safety standards required by law, they put thousands of people at risk of being injured, as well as face losing their homes and property.

### Representative Matters:

- Lead California case counsel for multiple wrongful death claims against MGM in the Las Vegas shooting.
- Class action lawsuit against major retailer for failing to compensate employees who are required to report for on-call shifts but ultimately aren't put to work.
- Lead plaintiffs' counsel representing over 3,000 homeowners on leaking hazardous pipes and recovered over \$10M to date.
- Lead wrongful death counsel on plaintiffs' steering committee in 2003 Metrolink train crash.