



**ABAG PLAN CORPORATION
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4707**

MEMO

Date: January 14, 2016
To: PLAN Claims Committee Members
From: Jill Stallman, ABAG PLAN Claims Manager
Re: ABAG PLAN Defense Counsel Appointment – Schmal Law

Recommendation

Committee to approve the appointment of Tim Schmal (dba Schmal Law) to ABAG PLAN's defense counsel panel.

Overview

Tim Schmal is being recommended as a renewed appointment to the ABAG PLAN defense counsel panel. His prior law firm, Burton, Schmal & DiBenedetto is on our list but the organization has now disbanded. Tim was our lead attorney at that firm and he has started his own practice called Schmal Law. As noted on his attached statement of qualifications he has worked with ABAG PLAN members before PLAN began. He has extensive experience in California Government Tort Liability including landslide and subsidence, litigation, property litigation, civil rights litigation and construction-related litigation.

Summary

The Claims Committee, upon request by ABAG or a Member Entity, may hear or make recommendations with respect to adding or deleting law firms or attorneys from our defense counsel panel. The Claims Committee is being called upon to review the statement of qualifications, resume and other background information on Tim Schmal that has been provided with the goal of appointing him and his new firm to our defense counsel panel.

Mr. Schmal's experience with our members and with the specific subject matter of which they are often pursued helps to keep our panel options strong while enabling the best service available to members in all areas of the Bay. (Schmal Law is based out of Santa Cruz). His rates are in line with the currently negotiated rates of our other panel counsel.

Staff recommends that we add Schmal Law (Tim Schmal) to the defense panel.

Schmal Law
501 Mission Street, Suite 10, 2nd Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3666
(831)227-2245 (x701)
www.schmallaw.net

Timothy J. Schmal
tjs@schmallaw.net

December 8, 2015

Jill Stallman
Claims Manager
ABAG PLAN Corporation
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

Re: ABAG PLAN Approved Panel Counsel - Schmal Law

Jill:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of last week please accept this letter, and attachments, as the application by me, and my firm, for formal approval as ABAG PLAN panel counsel.

It didn't even occur to me when my former firm of Burton, Schmal and DiBenedetto dissolved a year and a half ago that the approval of panel counsel wouldn't simply "follow" me. As I mentioned to you, I have been continuously representing ABAG PLAN members since prior to the inception of the PLAN. The files that I was working on a year and a half ago, for PLAN members, simply came with me after the law firm dissolution, and upon the opening of my new practice.

I have attached two documents which I hope you would find to be beneficial, in addition to this email - printed on my law firm letterhead. One is my personal professional resume. As you will see, a substantial portion of my practice for the last

three decades has been representation of public entities in civil litigation, including school and specialization districts.

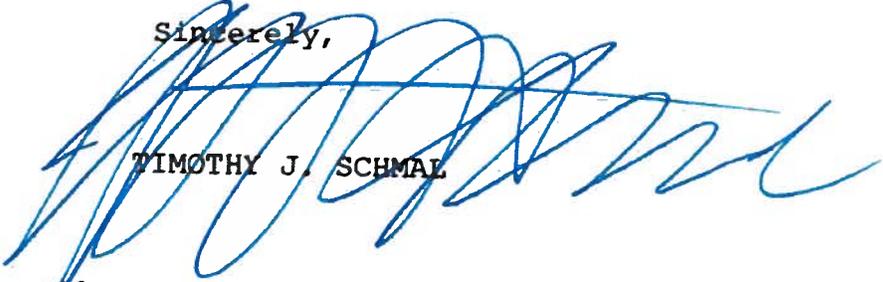
The other attachment to this is the list of trials that I provided to the national chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) around six years ago, when I was formally approved as a member five and a half years ago. (I later updated the list around 4 years ago, but it may be incomplete.) As you may know, ABOTA is a nomination-only association of trial lawyers who need to demonstrate a requisite number of trials to be admitted. I have not needed to do any "marketing" in the past four years, so I have not updated that list with any new trials, which would now include the *Cesar Enciso* matter that we discussed last week, which I tried for the City of Los Altos, nor the unfortunate jury trial result in the *Singh vs. City of Gilroy* case. I did, however, annotate the existing list with yellow highlighting for nine of the other earlier jury trials which were on behalf of ABAG PLAN members.

I think I mentioned to you that before Terry Hickman retired from ABAG PLAN he told me that he had tracked historical statistics, and that he concluded that I had tried more jury trials to verdict for ABAG PLAN members than any other panel attorney.

If you require any further information from me, please let me know. Hopefully, you will be able to get this approval agenda for a December 17th meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



TIMOTHY J. SCHMAL

Two (2) attachments by email

Timothy J. Schmal

Founder, Schmal Law

Tim Schmal, born in Hammond, Indiana, in 1956, specializes in civil litigation with an emphasis on Governmental Tort Liability, with extensive experience handling Landslide and Subsidence Litigation, Property Litigation, Civil Rights Litigation, and Construction-related Litigation. Mr. Schmal also has substantial experience handling bodily injury cases in both motor vehicle and premises liability contexts, and he has tried around thirty jury trials in over a half dozen counties' state courts, and in federal court, and has handled literally hundreds of arbitrations, court trials and other disputed proceedings, in over thirty-two years of active civil practice. Mr. Schmal was the prevailing trial and appellate attorney in *Lussier v. San Lorenzo Valley Water District*, a leading published appellate decision regarding natural disasters and public entity liability. He has also represented Joe and Jennifer Montana in property damage litigation.

Mr. Schmal received his Bachelor's Degree, *magna cum laude*, from California State University, Fresno, in 1979, and his Juris Doctorate, *cum laude*, from Santa Clara University School of Law, in 1982. While at Santa Clara University, Mr. Schmal was a member of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity, and an Associate Editor of the Santa Clara Law Review (Vol. 22, 1981-1982). In 1981, Mr. Schmal served as a law clerk to (the late) Peter Anello, Justice Pro Tem of the California Court of Appeal, First District (San Francisco). From 1982 through 1983, Mr. Schmal was a faculty member and Legal Research & Writing Instructor at Santa Clara University School of Law. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Law Alumni Association from 1984 through 1990, and was President of that organization from 1988 through 1989. Since 1991, he has been a member of Santa Clara University Law School Dean's advisory board, the Board of Visitors, of which he may be the longest-tenured member in the Board's history.

Mr. Schmal is a Past-President of the Santa Cruz County Bar Association. He is a member of the State Bar of California (admitted 1982), and various federal bars, as well as a member of the Santa Clara County Bar Association and the Monterey Bar Association. Mr. Schmal is a member, and former director and officer, of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz County Bar Association. Mr. Schmal is also a member and Secretary/Treasurer, of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz County Trial Lawyers Association. Mr. Schmal has served as both an Arbitrator and Judge Pro Tem for the Santa Clara County Superior Court and as a Court-appointed Special Master, Discovery Referee and Judge Pro Tem in Santa Cruz County Superior Court. Mr. Schmal has also served as a Mediator and Special Master by stipulation of the parties in litigated disputes.

In May of 2009, Mr. Schmal was approved for membership in the San Francisco Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), and was formally approved by the national board in May 2010. ABOTA membership is obtained on a nomination-only basis and requires that its members try a requisite number of jury trials to verdict to gain qualification. Less than one percent (1%) of practicing attorneys nationwide and in the State of California are ABOTA

Schmal, Resume, Page 2

members. Mr. Schmal has also been voted a Northern California “Super Lawyer” for the past ten years, and is one of less than 600 attorneys in California – around one-tenth of one percent (1/10th of 1%) – who have been given a rating of “10.0” on a scale of 10 by the consumer rating service, AVVO.com.

Mr. Schmal is the proud father of two adopted daughters. He enjoys golf and most participant and spectator sports, and has a long history as an avid distance runner. Mr. Schmal has been a participant, mentor and captain for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Team In Training program, and has been an on-staff coach for the program, for 9+ years, now completing 7 years as head coach, preparing over 1,600 runners to run various full and half marathons, who have raised over \$4,000,000.00. He has, himself, raised over \$50,000.00 in the battle against blood-related cancers, first as a fundraiser before he became a coach, and as a 2012 candidate for LLS’ Man of the Year for the Silicon Valley/Monterey Bay chapter. He has also donated many thousands more, directly.

Mr. Schmal has run 27 marathons (26.2 mile running race), including Boston, twice, finishing in the top 25% at the 100th Boston Marathon in 1996, and has started and finished every half and full marathon that he has run, currently numbering 96. He also served as a prime fundraiser for a children’s performing choir, running an annual raffle and auction for eight years.

Contact:

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TRIAL EXPERIENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Full Name: Timothy James Schmal.
2. Name of Firm: Burton, Schmal & DiBenedetto, LLP.
3. Office Address: 133 Mission Street, Suite 102,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
4. Office telephone, fax, email: Phone: (831)425-5023
FAX: (831)427-3159
Email: tjs@bsdllp.com.
5. California Bar Admission: December 1982.
6. Other Bar admissions and dates: Federal Court, Northern District of California, December 1982. Ninth Circuit, U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 1985.
7. How many years have you been a trial attorney: 28 years.
of practice in a civil trial practice (first trial 27 years ago, first jury trial 26 years ago).
8. Comments (overview) re list of jury trials: Each of the applicant's currently-identifiable trials are identified on pages that follow. Applicant believes that he may have as many as another half dozen trials, but his previous firm, Gassett, Perry & Frank, dissolved twelve (14) years ago, and all of those files have long since been purged. The latter-1980s was a very active period of trials for applicant, and applicant preserved only two (2) years of "trial calendars" from that time frame. Given the length of time that has elapsed from the dates of trial until today, some of the following descriptions are somewhat incomplete, and reconstructed from memory, only. Additionally, applicant was sole lead trial counsel for his clients in all of these matters, with the exception of the *Solorio* and *Chavez-Bello* trials, as described.

Superior Court and District Court case numbers are available for most matters.

Case Name: <i>Michael Price, Maureen Borg v. City of Los Altos, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: U.S. District Court, San Jose, Judge Jeremy Fogel.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 5.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This was a police civil rights case, with allegations of excessive force and false arrest, with punitive damages sought. Applicant defended the case, which resulted in a defendants' jury verdict. October 2000.

Case Name: <i>Apolonio Solorio v. City of San Jose, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: U.S. District Court, San Jose, Judge James Ware.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 4, followed by 3 days of deliberations.
Co-lead trial counsel, responsible for cross-examination (for around 3 hours) of the opposing party's most significant witnesses, the individual defendant officer (who was found personally liable), and the Deputy District Attorney who prosecuted the underlying criminal case. Applicant also gave plaintiff's rebuttal closing argument.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Applicant and his co-counsel received a plaintiffs' verdict in this matter, a federal civil rights police case, despite the fact that plaintiff, himself, was unable to appear at trial. The jury verdict, at the amount that plaintiff's attorneys requested, \$25,000.00, received significant local and regional publicity, with two full-length articles in the San Jose Mercury News. April 2008.

Case Name: <i>Michael and Sally Lussier v. San Lorenzo Valley Water District.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Cruz Superior, Judge and later Justice Christopher Cottle.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 5.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Applicant defended the San Lorenzo Valley Water District in a landslide/flash flood case. The jury returned a verdict for defendant, and the subsequent appeal, which applicant briefed and argued to the Sixth District, resulted in an oft-cited published appellate decision. March 1986.

Case Name: <i>June Carr v. City of Monterey.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Monterey Superior, Judge Robert O'Farrell.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 4 days.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Applicant defended the City of Monterey at jury trial against ABOTA member John "Jack" Stein, who represented plaintiff. The jury verdict, based upon an attribution of 65% comparative negligence against plaintiff in this "dangerous condition of public property" case, resulted in a net verdict to plaintiff of around \$51,000.00, which was one-sixteenth (1/16th) of the demand articulated in plaintiff's settlement conference statement. August 2004.

Case Name: <i>Valerie Phillips v. City of Monterey, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Monterey Superior, Judge Susan M. Dauphiné.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 5.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This trial involved a brain injury, and a requested seven figure verdict, against applicant's client, the City of Monterey, and the co-defendant community college. Each day applicant renewed and argued a non-suit motion based upon assumption of the risk, and, after the completion of five days of trial, and the presentation of plaintiff's entire case, the motion was granted. March 2002.

Case Name: <i>Coplin v. Keith Carlson.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: San Mateo Superior, Judge Clancy Knight.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: Day 2 when case settled.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This case settled during jury selection. Applicant defended the prior owner, developer, builder, and realtor involved in the sale of a residential property that was damaged in a landslide. Although applicant's client had previously made a \$100,000.00 policy limit statutory offer, which had expired, applicant's client paid only \$35,000.00 in compromise settlement at trial. 1990s, exact date unknown.

Case Name: <i>Harvey Small, et al. v. Donald Williams, Jongsol Kim.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: San Mateo Superior, Judge Joseph Bergeron.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 6.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This was a misrepresentation/non-disclosure case against a predecessor owner involving a residential property damaged by landslide. Applicant represented the sellers, and obtained a defense verdict. June 1990.

Case Name: <i>Miguel Salmeron v. City of Newark, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Alameda Superior.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 3.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This was a police brutality/false arrest case. Applicant defended the municipality and individual defendant officers involved in plaintiff's arrest, which did result in a facial fracture. The jury returned a defendants' verdict. Trial was in the early-1990s.

Case Name: <i>Lusk v. Spoons, Inc.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Alameda Superior.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 3.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Applicant defended Spoons, Inc., in a "food poisoning" case brought against Spoons by a gentleman who claimed food poisoning after eating chicken fajitas. Defense verdict. Trial occurred in the early-1990s.

Case Name: <i>Abernathy v. Rainbow Cab Company.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: San Francisco Superior.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.

Number of Actual Trial Days: 5.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Applicant defended a cab company and driver who were sued for personal injuries arising out of a taxi cab accident. Applicant's client lost a verdict amount in excess of \$300,000.00, and applicant is therefore likely "repressing" the name of the plaintiff and name of the trial judge. The trial occurred in the 1990s.

Case Name: <i>Cassie Whitworth v. City of Milpitas, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge Mark Thomas.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 5.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This was a police civil rights false arrest and excessive force case involving an African-American plaintiff and a Caucasian police officer. Applicant defended the municipality and involved officers. Defense verdict. August 1989.

Case Name: <i>Gerhard E. Siebertz, et al. v. City of Milpitas, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge Thomas Hastings.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 6.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Plaintiffs alleged that the Milpitas Police Department and involved officers stole/converted hundreds of items seized from plaintiffs pursuant to a warrant, followed by an order for return of the items. Applicant represented defendants and requested that the jury return a modest verdict. The actual verdict, in the amount of \$645.00, resulted in a judgment to defendants, after costs, which defendants collected. December 1988.

Case Name: <i>Charles Diggins v. City of Los Altos, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge William Martin.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 4, plus deliberations on parts of 3 days.

Sole Lead Counsel.

Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Plaintiff Diggins was taken to the ground and Tasered by the Los Altos defendants following a traffic stop for a "fix-it" ticket. Plaintiff and his wife were represented by ABOTA member Charles "Chuck" Smith. Defense verdict. September 1999.

Case Name: *Edward Avila v. Central Santa Clara County Regional Occupational Agency/Campbell Union High School District.*

Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge Jack Komar.

Civil/Criminal: Civil.

Number of Actual Trial Days: 5.

Sole Lead Counsel.

Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Plaintiffs sued for dangerous condition of public property. Applicant defended one of the two involved school districts. Defense verdict. August 1991.

Case Name: *Elizabeth Espinosa v. City of Gilroy.*

Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge Thomas Hansen.

Civil/Criminal: Civil.

Number of Actual Trial Days: 3.

Sole Lead Counsel.

Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Dangerous condition of public property. Applicant defended City. Defense verdict. Applicant also briefed and argued against the appeal to the Sixth District, affirmed. Trial May 1992.

Case Name: *Raul Hernandez v. City of Gilroy.*

Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge Nancy Hoffman.

Civil/Criminal: Civil.

Number of Actual Trial Days: 7.

Sole Lead Counsel.

Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Dangerous condition of public property arising out of a tree in a City park that fell on plaintiff on the 4th of July. Applicant defended City. Plaintiff's verdict, \$619,000.00. February 1994.

Case Name: <i>Beth Minor v. City of Gilroy.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge Richard Turrone.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 3 weeks.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This trial involved claims of toxic exposure by a woman who claimed complete disability and who sought a jury verdict of \$6,000,000.00, following pre-trial demands to defendant City of no less than \$1,100,000.00. Case involved complicated expert, medical and scientific issues, including microbiology. Defense verdict. January 1994.

Case Name: <i>Benito Zamaripa v. City of Gilroy.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge William Martin.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 3.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This was a police excessive force case. Plaintiff had been shot by a law enforcement officer. Defense verdict. January 2004.

Case Name: <i>Sandra Breschi v. Michael Liu.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: Case settled at the conclusion of the first day of trial.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: The case settled during jury selection for five figures. December 2004.

Case Name: <i>Donald Comer, et al. v. Jeffrey Duckham, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge George Bonney.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 2 weeks.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This was a convoluted landslide case tried both to a jury and to the Judge involving abatement issues and money damages claims predicated on fraud, since all other claims were barred by applicable statutes of limitations. Applicant represented the defendant who did not prevail on his cross-complaint before the jury. April 1989.

Case Name: <i>Florence Boyce v. Samuel Quiroz, Sr.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, tried before ABOTA member Allen Ruby as Judge Pro Tem.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 3.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This case arose from a vehicle accident in a parking lot, and defendant, represented by applicant, stipulated to liability. Applicant's client had made a statutory settlement offer for policy limits prior to trial. The jury returned a verdict of \$3,500.00. July 1989.

Case Name: <i>Morrow v. Zapien.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 5.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Applicant cannot recall the name of the trial judge, but plaintiff's attorney was the very seasoned Lou DeMers. Plaintiff suffered injuries as a result of damage to the access ladder to a semi tractor after defendant's vehicle damaged the ladder in a motor vehicle accident. Defense verdict. Trial occurred in the 1990s.

Case Name: <i>Philip & Faith Schirm v. Fremont Union High School District.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge Joseph Biafore.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 5.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This was a simultaneous jury and court trial related to property damage to plaintiffs' residential property as a result of the sloughing of soil off of an undeveloped school site. Applicant defended the School District. Trial resulted in both a defense verdict and a defense judgment. September 1989.

Case Name: <i>Ryan Costa v. Fremont Union High School District, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Clara Superior, Judge Socrates Peter Manoukian.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 5.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This lawsuit arose out of a school altercation. Plaintiff suffered a fractured orbital socket. Defense verdict as to all defendants. September 2000.

Case Name: <i>John & Mary Stanley, et al. v. San Lorenzo Valley Water District.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Cruz Superior Court, Judge William Kelsay.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 9 weeks, total, in bifurcated trial.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This case began as a jury trial but the court granted applicant's mistrial motion based upon adverse publicity in a local newspaper which could potentially "poison" the jury pool. The case therefore proceeded to court trial, for a period of 9 weeks, bifurcated, in August of 1985 and in March of 1986. Applicant defended the Water District in a landslide/flash flood case, and lost, losing a little over \$1,000,000.00 cumulatively via judgments, and a compromise settlement with a pair of prevailing plaintiffs between the two portions of the trial.

Case Name: <i>Andry/Sanchez v. City of Monterey.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Monterey Superior, Judge Kay Kingsley.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 3.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This actually was a court trial, since applicant substituted into the case for the City Attorney's Office, who had previously waived jury. Plaintiffs had sued for dangerous condition of public property, and the lawsuits from two different plaintiffs, related to two different accidents, were consolidated for trial. Both plaintiffs sought six figure judgments, and a defense judgment was obtained. January 2005.

Case Name: <i>Richard Randall, et al. v. Lillian Robbins, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Monterey Superior, Judge Susan M. Dauphiné.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 3.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This was actually a court trial involving a dispute over a water well and tank. The case was tried in July and September 2004.

Case Name: <i>Davidon Homes v. Ralph and Kelly Neumeister.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Contra Costa Superior, Judge Norman Spellberg (Retired).
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 6.
Sole Lead Counsel.
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: This actually was a "trial by reference" under a residential sales contract. The developer sued two of its own homeowners, claiming that the alteration of their property had caused a massive landslide, seeking over \$600,000.00 in damages. Palmer Brown Madden, who later became President of the California State Bar, represented the developer. Applicant defended the homeowners. Following Judge Spellberg's decision in favor of the homeowners, articles were written about this case in the Contra Costa Times and San Francisco Examiner/Chronicle. September 1997.

Case Name: <i>Maria Chavez-Bello v. Dr. Jeffrey Solinas, et al.</i>
Court/Judge's Name: Santa Cruz Superior, Judge Ariadne Symons.
Civil/Criminal: Civil.
Number of Actual Trial Days: 15.
Lead Counsel (all arguments on motions and evidentiary objections, opening statement, closing argument, rebuttal argument, examination of all opposing experts and opposing parties, and all cross-examination).
Verdict/Resolution & Comments re Case: Applicant and his co-counsel received a plaintiff's verdict in this matter, off of a maximum offer of \$250,000.00, in the gross amount of \$1,050,000.00, net of \$843,000.00, besting plaintiff's statutory demand of \$800,000.00. The case settled, post-trial, at mediation, for \$900,000.00.