



BULLETIN

News for Labor Leaders on Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation Law

Justice for the INJURED®

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October 2006

Governor Kills Bill to Restore Some Permanent Disability Benefits

Arnold Schwarzenegger added insult to Californians' on-the-job injuries by vetoing legislation to restore some Workers' Comp benefits. A July study by the state Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation found that Schwarzenegger's Permanent Disability schedule slashes compensation by more than half.

Senate President Pro-Tem Don Perata – who wrote SB 815 – said, “Three years ago, Gov. Schwarzenegger made a commitment that the Workers' Compensation system would not be fixed by slashing Permanent Disability benefits to the most seriously injured workers. SB 815 was a responsible way for him to keep his commitment. I am disappointed he did not.”

Treasurer Phil Angelides added, “Governor Schwarzenegger has once again chosen to turn his back on working Californians.” See the back page of this newsletter for the top 10 reasons to vote for Angelides for governor.

Law Firm Tackles Broad Range of Personal Injury Cases

- Attorney Howard Krepack recently obtained a substantial settlement for the widow and two young children of an electrician who died in a construction site accident. Despite significant legal hurdles and adverse precedent, Krepack and Associate Gary Stern defeated aggressive defense efforts to have the case dismissed at both the trial and appellate court levels. The result was a settlement on the eve of trial that will provide financial security and an education fund for the survivors.
- A California State Bar magazine has published an extensive profile of Personal Injury attorneys Roger Gordon and Vincent Vallin Bennett and their recent \$1.7 million verdict for a gravely injured sanitation worker. When the defense offered little compensation, Gordon and Bennett proved to a jury during a 12-day trial that client Ramiro Serrano was crippled when a 550-pound dumpster fell off the front forks of a defectively designed trash truck. “The crippling injuries could have been avoided entirely by a few simple design considerations,” Bennett told bimonthly *Trial Style*.
- Attorneys Howard Krepack and Gary Stern have filed suit on behalf of a client whose former employer reluctantly conceded her right to maternity leave in 2004 and then retaliated against her when she returned to work the following February. Client Megan Worthy was subjected to harassment, a hostile work environment and then terminated. The suit seeks damages for lost earnings, emotional distress and attorney's fees under California's employment civil rights laws.

Workers' Comp Attorney to Head Statewide Legal Association

Workers' Comp attorney Adam Dombchik was recently appointed to the Executive Board of the statewide California Applicants Attorneys Association. The 5-year commitment will include a term as president of CAAA. Dombchik currently serves as president of the group's local chapter, the Southern California Applicants Attorneys Association.

GORDON, EDELSTEIN, KREPACK, GRANT, FELTON & GOLDSTEIN

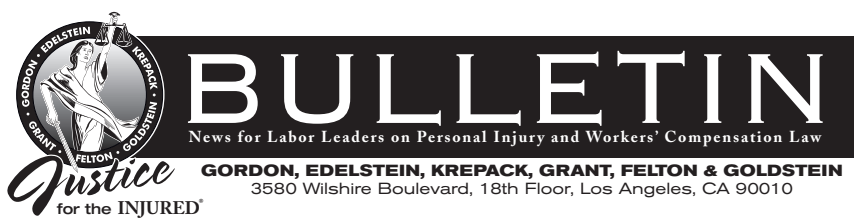
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Attorneys Richard Felton, Adam Dombchik, Sherry Grant, Larry Goldstein and Mark Edelstein with the candidate.

Top 10 Reasons to Vote for Phil Angelides

- 10) He will work to control the cost of prescription drugs.
- 9) He will appoint a new Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Comp who will protect the interests of injured workers.
- 8) He will cut taxes on middle class families and raise taxes on the top 1% of Californians.
- 7) He will increase funding for public education from pre-school through college.
- 6) He will work to restore fairness to Permanent Disability benefits.
- 5) He will protect the pensions of teachers, firefighters and other public employees.
- 4) He will roll back tuition and student fees at public colleges and universities to 2004 levels.
- 3) He will close corporate tax loopholes.
- 2) He will expand medical coverage, beginning with providing health care to all our children.
- 1) He has always stood up for the rights of working men and women.



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