



The Coffee House

Spring 2011

Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association

Wrongful Death Practice in Wyoming

Convention Coming Attractions



**Change
Ahead**

VERDICTS AND SETTLEMENTS

Case: *Starck v. Sierra Pacific Industries*

Jurisdiction: Second Judicial District

Judge: Honorable Wade Waldrip

Judgment: \$50,000

Facts: On January 3, 2008, Deputy Starck was providing roadside assistance to the driver of a Sierra Pacific semi-tractor trailer, whose vehicle had crashed into the median near Rawlins, Wyoming. While providing that assistance, the driver of another Sierra Pacific semi-tractor trailer, jackknifed and crashed into to the first semi-tractor trailer, which injured Deputy Starck.

Injuries: Intermittent Sciatic Pain

Plaintiff's Age: 40

Plaintiff's Work: Carbon County Sheriff's Deputy

Medical Bills: \$4070

Lost Wages: None

Plaintiff's Attorney: Anna Reeves Olson, Park Street Law Office

Defense Attorney: Robert Jarosh & Melissa Grasmick, Hirst Applegate, LLP

Plaintiff's Expert: Dr. Roger Sobel, MD

Defendant's Expert: None

Case: *Allan Sampson v. Industrial Welding*

Jurisdiction: U.S District Court for District of Wyoming

Judges: Honorable Clarence Brimmer and Alan Johnson

Case Number: LLC, 08 CV 255

Verdict/Settlement: The case settled for a confidential amount.

Facts: Oil rig accident, Sublette County, WY. Rig was being "rigged down" (disassembled) to move it. One of the

rig's two-ton floor plates was rigged to a crane operated by Defendant Industrial Rigging. The Plaintiff's foot was injured when a two-ton floor plate suddenly moved and trapped the foot between the rotary table and the floor plate. Photographs taken immediately after the event showed that an end of the floor plate connected to the crane was suspended (and allegedly raised) by the crane. Plaintiff alleged and Industrial denied that Industrial's crane had unexpectedly and negligently raised the floor plate. Industrial alleged that the plate moved because it had been negligently placed by the Plaintiff's fellow employees.

Injuries: All of the toes of the Plaintiff's right foot were amputated.

Medical bills: Exceeded \$100,000

Lost Wages: Alleged future wage losses and other economic damages exceeded \$1,000,000

Plaintiff's Attorneys: James E. Gigax, Blum Murr & Accomazzo, PC; James E. Fitzgerald, The Fitzgerald Law Firm

Defense Attorney: Michael B. Rosenthal, Hathaway & Kunz, PC

Plaintiff's Experts: Crane expert: Steven Estrin, Sarasota, FL; Economist Ashley Ahrens, PhD, Lyons, CO; Vocational expert: Helen Woodard, Lakewood, CO

Defendant's Experts: Terry Brittenham, P.E./Petroleum Engineer, Oklahoma City, OK

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