

FROM: THE

Editor's Desk

IT MUST RUN IN THE FAMILY . . . 26 years ago Larry Booth of Booth & Koskoff became only the fourth attorney in the history of California to obtain a million dollar verdict. Since then the law firm has had 42 other verdicts and settlements over \$1 million dollars.

And now the second generation takes a bow. Son Roger continues the family tradition. Our centerfold case, according to our records, is almost twice the recorded verdict of *Mener v. Johnson Controls* which resulted in a net award of \$819,952 . . . and that was for a hand amputation!

Sincerely yours,

The O'Briens

P.S. Roger just called and the case settled for \$1,200,000!

LAW FIRM PROFILE

BOOTH & KOSKOFF

Two Generations Provide Experience and Energy

Nepotism is alive and well at Booth & Koskoff. Not the kind where some overly privileged offspring directs employees who are far more able, however. Rather, the nepotism at Booth & Koskoff contributes and adds spice to an already successful personal injury practice.

The culprit? One Roger Booth, son of prominent plaintiff's attorney and name partner, Lawrence Booth. Legal buffs may recall the senior Booth as an attorney who was among the first four attorneys in the history of California to win a \$1 million verdict. A chip off the old block, the junior Booth just won a \$1.6 million verdict in a complicated products liability case working alongside the other name partner, Richard Koskoff. The verdict marks the 43rd \$1 million-plus result obtained by Booth & Koskoff.

Perhaps just as noteworthy was the fact that this was only junior Booth's second trial. Nor was the subject matter a walk in the park. Koskoff describes the nature of the proceedings as a "whodunit." But Koskoff believes that good lawyers can make a difference. The case involved a machine worker who made concrete blocks. While trying to remove rock debris in the machine, one of the hydraulic cylinders failed, resulting in the plaintiff's

hand being severely crushed. The case against the machine manufacturer was settled for \$125,000, leaving the company that refurbished the machine, Anderson Hydraulics, at trial.

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The first hurdle was to prove Anderson was the right defendant. Although an inspection revealed that an undersized seal was the cause of the malfunction, neither Anderson nor the plaintiff's employer had records showing Anderson worked on the subject machine. Booth, who handled the liability aspect of the case, admits this presented a problem. To overcome this hurdle, Booth in-

roduced testimony to the effect that only Anderson did such work for the plaintiff's employer, and the jury bought it.

The next hurdle: prove that the plaintiff's actions were reasonable. Anderson contended that had a relatively simple blocking device been used, the accident could have been avoided. To counter, Booth introduced evidence that everything the plaintiff did was within industry standards, including not using a blocking mechanism. The jury agreed.

The last hurdle, damages, was left to Koskoff. After seven days of trial and one day of deliberation, the jury came up with the \$1.55 million verdict which set a record for cases involving similar injuries in Orange County. Clearly, Koskoff did his job.

So, how does Roger Booth like working for his "old man?" "It's great!" he says without hesitation. And how does the unrelated Koskoff feel about working with a father and son duo? Just fine. "I like being between Larry and Roger," he says with a chuckle. Koskoff believes the senior Booth's experience and the junior Booth's energy result in a "broad spectrum of creativity" that "works out well" for the firm.

— Dennis Spalla Morris