Oakland Jury Awards $13.7 million, Holding Accountable Two Trucking Companies in an Accident that Killed 3 People

San Francisco Bay Area attorneys Bradley M. Corsiglia and Andrew C. Schwartz persuade a jury that the two trucking companies were at fault for a 2012 truck accident that claimed the lives of three individuals on a foggy California highway.

OAKLAND, CA — October 13, 2015 — Three San Jose families can now move forward with their lives following the deaths of three family members and nearly three years of litigation as a result of an Oakland, California jury awarding a total of $13.7 million and holding accountable two trucking companies. Bay Area attorneys Bradley M. Corsiglia, law firm of Corsiglia McMahon & Allard, along with Andrew C. Schwartz, law firm of Casper, Meadows, Schwartz & Cook, represented the three families.

The truck accident took place on the morning of November 27, 2012 on California State Route 152 and Road 16. Three members of a San Jose Vietnamese family were on their way to work in Dinuba, California when their Honda was struck head on by a truck driven by Liwei Xu of Oakland.

The accident began when a big rig driven by José Luis Batres, Western Milling Company, attempted to make a left hand turn across two lanes of the freeway. Visibility was less than 200 feet. At the same time, another big rig, driven by Armando Suarez, Jr. of Semper Trucking, hauling 500-pound bales of cotton was coming from the other direction. As it hit the fog bank the truck clipped the rear of the Batres truck and overturned, spewing bales of cotton on the highway. A few minutes later, Liwei Xu, Well Trucking, entered the fog bank as he approached Road 16 and hit the cotton bales. Mr. Xu lost control, swerved left across the median into the eastbound lanes of the highway and collided head-on with the Honda Accord killing all three occupants.

The jury found Mr. Batres 75% at fault for starting the series of collisions by making a left turn across two lanes of traffic in near zero visibility. Mr. Xu was found 25% at fault for driving so fast that when he entered the fog bank he did not have time to avoid obstructions in the roadway.

Killed in the accident were Quoc Thang Dang, his sister, ThuyTrang Thi Dang and their friend, Thanh Mhan Thi Nguyen. All of them were in Quoc’s 1999 Honda Accord on their way to work. The three left behind their spouses along with a total of 7 children.

As legal immigrants to the United States, Quoc and Thuy wanted their children to receive the best education possible so they made the sacrifice by moving to San Jose and commuting to work in Dinuba. Quoc’s daughter is completing her studies at UCLA while both of Thuy’s children are now at San Jose State University. Thuy’s husband visits her grave twice a week and talks to her about the children’s achievements.
Mr. Corsiglia represented the families of both Quoc Dang and ThuyTrang Dang. The two families received $8.5 million. Mr. Schwartz represented the Nguyen family and received $5.2 on their behalf.

Attorneys Corsiglia and Schwartz both state, “we are grateful to the jury in Oakland for allowing all three families to move forward with their lives and in memory of their parents, allowing the children to continue achieving the American dream that their parents died trying to provide them.”

###