

GILLIN JACOBSON ELLIS & LARSEN



With verdicts and settlements in excess of \$175 million in the last three years alone, Gillin, Jacobson, Ellis & Larsen continues to build on its original mission. "We still take pride in fighting for the little guy," partner Luke Ellis said, noting that all of the firm's partners began their careers in public service. The cases have gotten larger and more complex along the way, but that hasn't changed the firm's focus. The one-on-one relationship between attorney and client remains important to GJEL today.

To that end, the firm has become increasingly selective with respect to its case load. "We're very careful about the number and the type of cases we take," observed partner Andy Gillin. "Catastrophic injury cases require extraordinary attention to detail. The

only way to allow for that focus is to be extremely selective. Our discipline is to maintain a constant emphasis on quality over quantity."

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Ellis concurred. "Being selective is what allows us to maximize our creativity and intensity." By keeping the firm's case load manageable, he explained, the attorneys are afforded the time to work every aspect of the case and to develop a personal connection with their clients. "That connection gives you extra fight and determination to overcome what would otherwise be the insurmountable

resources that corporate defendants and insurance companies possess."

In one 2007 case, the firm recovered \$10.65 million for the family of a construction worker killed in a pipeline accident. It was the largest recovery ever for a wrongful death case, by either verdict or settlement, in Contra Costa County.

According to Ellis, it was also a hard-fought and emotional case, and one which re-validated GJEL's quality-over-quantity discipline among its partners. "We were able to put our full efforts into every detail of the case to achieve the desired result for our clients."

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