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30 Years... ...and counting!

On June 7, 2010, 30 years had passed since I sustained quadriplegia! Apart from the obvious of surviving three decades and going from a 16-year-old energetic youth to the seasoned middle-aged, 46-year-old man that I am today, a lot has changed.

Despite my high-level quadriplegia, I was fortunate enough to gain valuable experience. See my CV on the "Login" Section of my webpage for more details.

I have provided litigation support and have testified at Depositions and Trials as a Vocational Expert and Life Care Planner in numerous cases over the years. In 2008, I decided to enhance my qualifications as an expert witness; and therefore, I graduated from Capital University Law School's Certification Program as a Life Care Planner with Highest Honours. In turn, I met the International Commission on Health Care Certification's definition of "Qualified Health Care Professional" based on my background of education, training and qualifications. Since that time, I have continued to testify as a Vocational Expert and CLCP; however, I would like to bring to your attention a particular case where my testimony was crucial to the outcome. I was retained by the defense:

Scott F. Lawing and Tammy r. Lawing v. Univar USA, Inc., Trinity Manufacturing, Inc. and Matrix Outsourcing, LLC; C.A. No. 2006-CP-37-30.

Keith Black v. Univar USA, Inc., Trinity Manufacturing, Inc. and Matrix Outsourcing, LLC; C.A. No. 2005-CP-37-605.

Curtis Martin and Tina Ann Martin v. Univar USA, Inc., Trinity Manufacturing, Inc. and Matrix Outsourcing, LLC; C.A. No. 2006-CP-37-604.

The case was defended by a total of four lawyers, including Mr. Samuel W. Outten and Ms. Sandra Louise Weikel Miller from the Greenville, South Carolina Offices of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, L.L.C . These cases arose out of an explosion and fire at Engelhard in Seneca, SC which occurred when slag from a welding operation came in contact with pallets of sodium bromate. The three plaintiffs sustained severe burns, and were treated at the Augusta Burn Center for several weeks after the accident. Univar, a leading chemical distributor, sold the sodium bromate to Engelhard. The plaintiffs claimed that the bags of sodium bromate were not properly labeled (under DOT and OSHA) or packaged (woven plastic bags were not sufficiently ignition resistant). The

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trial was consolidated and bifurcated—all three plaintiffs' cases on liability were heard beginning Monday, October 20, 2008, in Oconee County, South Carolina. On November 17, 2008, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Univar on fifteen of eighteen causes of action, and found in favor of the plaintiffs only on the claim for express warranty as to labeling. The damages phase began on December 1, 2008. The jury returned a verdict for \$6.1 million on Friday, December 12, to all three plaintiffs including two loss of consortium claims. This was a victory for the defense, in light of the fact that the medical bills and economic loss claims exceeded \$7 million, claims for projected future medical expenses were \$4 million, and plaintiffs' counsel asked the jury for \$50 million. Also, Univar's co-defendants settled before trial for \$4.5 million, which should result in a set-off for most of the jury verdict.

It was a great experience as I was able to see seasoned litigators in action. I was there for two weeks and I was able to observe the plaintiffs every day to determine that they were able to work and that most of their burns had healed; and therefore, they had minimal future care costs. I was the only defense witness for the damages phase of the trial other than a written transcript from a family physician; whereas, the plaintiffs had the President of the American Association of Nurse Life Care Planner's, a Vocational Expert, the Chief Surgeon from the Augusta Burn Center and an Economist.

*Dan,
Hope you have a wonderful holiday. It was a pleasure working with you - your courtroom presence & testimony went a long way in assuring our successful outcome. With best wishes for the New Year,
Sandy*

I have 30 years of extensive personal and professional experience dealing with severe disabilities. I read every piece of paper that I receive and my Reports are very thorough; and therefore, when coupled with my formal education, I make a formidable and well sought after expert.

I look forward to helping you with your personal injury cases.



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