

# Burn Injury

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## **Richard Anderson, individually, Percival Anderson, individually, Melva Anderson, individually, Sharon Anderson, individually, and Trevor Anderson, individually, v. Tropigas International Corporation and Tropigas, S.A.**

**Settlement: \$8,260,000.00**

Richard Anderson was a sixteen year old boy living in Jamaica in 1982 when he suffered severe third degree burns to 75% of his body as a result of a fire in his home. The fire was started as a result of the ignition caused by defective propane gas cylinder inside the home. Plaintiffs were able to prove that the parent company of Tropigas International Corporation in Jamaica, was a company out of Coral Gables, Florida and were able to bring the lawsuit in Dade County, Florida. After numerous appeals, including appeals to the United States Supreme Court, the court determined that jurisdiction was proper in Dade County, Florida, and the case was settled before trial. At the time, the Anderson settlement was the largest settlement for a personal injury case in Dade County, Florida. The case was litigated by Robert J. Dickman and Manuel Epelbaum.

## **Richards v. Carnival Cruise Lines**

**Settlement: \$3,300,000.00**

Garth Richards was a Jamaican seaman working as a busboy on a cruise ship. On the evening that he was injured, the seas were rough and a large coffee urn dislodged from the wall resulting in severe burns to his body. This case was litigated by Robert J. Dickman and Manuel Epelbaum. They were able to prove the unseaworthiness of the vessel resulting in the liquid burns to Garth.

## **Angulo v. Ryder Truck Rental**

**Settlement: \$3,200,000.00**

Gloria Angulo was a passenger in a vehicle that was rear-ended on the Palmetto Expressway. Plaintiffs were able to prove that the driver of the vehicle was in the course and scope of his employment with Ryder Truck Rental. The driver of the rear-ending vehicle was at a party where he was sponsoring business on behalf of Ryder and Plaintiffs were able to prove through credit card records that he was in the course and scope of his employment at the time of the accident. Gloria unfortunately suffered severe burns to her body and was treated at Jackson Memorial Hospital. This case was litigated by Manuel Epelbaum and Robert J. Dickman

## **John Doe v. XYZ Corporation**

**Settlement: \$3,000,000.00**

Plaintiff was an employee of Florida Power & Light and suffered extensive burns to his hands, upper torso and face when an explosion occurred while testing a bus bar connection at a large condominium building under construction. Plaintiff alleged that the electrical contractor had failed to properly secure the bus bar and had allowed the bus bar to become exposed to the elements. Plaintiff further alleged that the electrical components had been secured without obtaining the proper permits and that the system had been activated prematurely. Plaintiff also sued the developer and general contractor for their nondelegable responsibilities on the job site. In addition to the settlement, Plaintiff obtained attorney's fees against the Defendants for discovery violations. Robert J. Dickman, Jr. and Robert J. Dickman litigated this case.

## **Lawrence v. XYZ Corporation**

**Settlement: \$1,100,000.00**

Plaintiff was working at a construction site when the crane operator improperly allowed the crane tower to touch an electric power line resulting in electrical shock to the Plaintiff. Plaintiff suffered extensive burns to his hands and feet. Plaintiff was able to resolve this case immediately before trial for the full amount of the Plaintiff's damages. This case was litigated by Robert J. Dickman and Manuel Epelbaum.