

# Products Liability

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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.

## **Moller v. Evans Tires & Treads, Inc.**

**Jury Verdict: \$3,700,000.00**

Manuel Epelbaum co-counseled this case through trial and obtained a verdict on behalf of a husband and father who was killed as a result of failure to properly seed a tire rim on a tire resulting in an explosion leading to Mr. Moller's death. Mr. Moller was in the process of branding a tire when an improper fitting of rim spun off the tire striking him in the head resulting in blunt head trauma. Mr. Moller died a few days after the injury. Plaintiff went to trial and was successful in recovering a large verdict on behalf of the surviving wife and two children. This case was litigated by 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.

## **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.