

Daily Journal

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TOP 25 PLAINTIFF LAWYERS

Let's face it, plaintiff lawyers add the bling to the legal industry. But too often, we in the media focus on the large monetary judgments and settlements their cases garner and on their big personalities — in and out of the courtroom. We don't pay enough attention to the public and corporate policy changes their cases bring about.

In this inaugural issue, we tried to change that.

We selected just 25 California plaintiff lawyers to honor. We could have honored more but, in our opinion, these are the ones who consistently force broad change in the law, industry and society. Some are well-known, like Elizabeth Cabraser, Joseph Cotchett and Tom Girardi, and others are relative upstarts like Lawrance Bohm, whose eye-popping employment-related verdicts have grabbed us by

the proverbial lapels and forced us to pay attention.

As you read about these men and women, there is a common thread — and it doesn't have dollar signs; they truly care about having an impact. The work they are doing to hold governments and industry accountable will last long after the bling has dimmed.

— The Editors

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Michael J. Bidart

Shernoff Bidart
Echeverria Bentley LLP
Claremont

SPECIALTY: Insurance
bad faith



“I have just been really lucky to be able to work on cases for worthy clients against companies insensitive to their needs,” said Bidart of his 41 year career.

In April, Bidart won a \$28 million verdict for his client Anna Rahm after doctors employed by Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc. delayed giving Rahm an MRI suggested by her chiropractor. The delay in getting her the MRI allowed her osteosarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer, to advance untreated. With 3-D model replicas of the tumor, Bidart established the delay caused the severity of Rahm's injuries. Rahm lost her right leg, the right side of her pelvis and part of her spine to the disease.

“I really think what won the case, as much as I wish I could say it was me, it wasn't me. It was a wonderful client and wonderful family; and I think an issue of insensitivity on the part of the defendant.” *Rahm, et al. v. Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc., et al.*, BC441742 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed July 15, 2010).

— Hetert-Qebu Walters