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And The Defense Wins

Will Kronenberg



September 30, 2021, a Los Angeles County jury returned a defense verdict in a catastrophic injury trial in Department S29 in Long Beach. DRI member **Will Kronenberg** represented Defendant Pipeline Plumbing Inc. in the case, which involved a collision between a pedestrian and a Ford F 250 truck on August 29, 2017. The plaintiff, Prince Charles Smyth, sustained serious internal injuries including a ruptured diaphragm, bilateral rib fractures, fractures of the transverse processes at L3, L4 and L5, fractured pelvis and left humerus, as well as a traumatic brain injury. He went into ventricular fibrillation, then asystole, and ultimately code blue during laparoscopic surgery resulting in a prolonged period of intubation with permanent damage to his vocal cords.

Will Kronenberg was retained to try the case and brought a motion to bifurcate liability from damages, which was granted. The jury returned a defense verdict on the liability phase resulting in judgment for the defendants. The plaintiff's settlement demand prior to trial was \$6 million and the offer was \$2 million. The demand was reduced during trial to \$3.95 million.