

SPRING 2008

Aitken * Aitken * Cohn

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

8:15 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

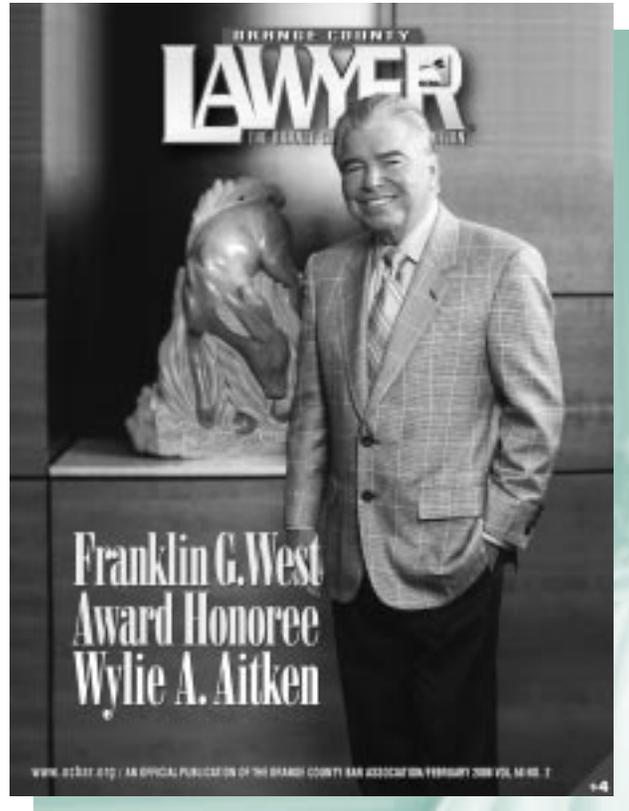
**CIVIL LITIGATION/
 PERSONAL INJURY
 SPECIALISTS**

- Free consultation
- No recovery. No fee.
- Martindale-Hubbell
 AV rating
- "Best Lawyers in America"
- "The Top 100 Influential
 California Lawyers"

Wylie presented the Franklin G. West Award by the Orange County Bar Association

On January 17, 2008, Wylie was presented the Franklin G. West Award by the Orange County Bar Association. The Orange County Bar Association, or OCBA, is the largest and most prestigious attorney organization in Orange County and has approximately 6,800 members. The Franklin G. West Award is the highest honor bestowed by the OCBA and is presented to "outstanding attorneys and judges whose lifetime achievements have advanced justice and the law." The award was established in the memory of Judge Franklin G. West, who "epitomized the best of the legal profession as both an attorney and a judge."

The award was presented to Wylie at the annual "Judges' Night" banquet, which was attended by more than 700 prominent lawyers and judges from throughout Orange County. The award was presented by former Orange County Bar Association President Dean Zipser, who remarked that "Wylie Aitken is one of the most recognized, respected, and well-known lawyers in the county and beyond."



After describing Wylie's legal and community accomplishments, Mr. Zipser concluded, "Wylie has sought to make our profession, county, state, and country better. There is no doubt that he has done so." In his typical tongue-in-cheek manner, Wylie thanked Mr. Zipser and indicated, "The generosity of your introduction is exceeded only by its accuracy."

In further recognition of the award, Wylie also appeared on the cover of the *Orange County Lawyer* magazine.

"A Man for All Seasons." Wylie receives the 2008 Franklin G. West Award.

Experience • Resources • Compassion • Results

What's new?

Annalise Aitken was born to Chris and Maureen and joins her three brothers—Shane, Tyler, and Jack. They all celebrated the birth of “Anna” on November 25. Anna weighed in at 8 lbs., 5 oz., and was 20.5” long.

Jeanette Merryman, legal assistant to Darren Aitken, comes to us with more than ten years’ experience in the legal field and brings a wealth of expertise to her new position.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

March 29, 2008
Consumer Attorneys
of California
“Getting the Recovery Your
Client Deserves”
“Punitive Damages”
Wylie Aitken

April 5, 2008
Orange County Bar
Association
“Mediating the Large Case”
Darren Aitken

Congratulations to...

...2008 Southern
California Super Lawyers:
Wylie, Rich, and Darren.
Wylie made the TOP 100,
and Darren and Wylie
made the TOP 50, Orange
County.

**SUPER
LAWYERS**

&

...2008 Southern
California Rising Stars:
Chris, Casey, and Michael.

**RISING
STARS**

Contact us after hours

If you need assistance after regular business hours, you can call our office, dial the extension of the person with whom you want to speak, and if he or she is not available, leave a message on voice mail. Voice mails are checked periodically, and your phone call will be returned as soon as possible. The extensions are listed below:

ATTORNEYS

Wylie	Ext. 16
Rich	Ext. 15
Darren	Ext. 14
Chris	Ext. 13
Casey	Ext. 40
Michael	Ext. 41

LEGAL ASSISTANTS

Deborah	Ext. 48
Jeff	Ext. 21
Jeanette	Ext. 25
Randi	Ext. 26
Steven	Ext. 47

ADMINISTRATORS

Terry (Cases)	Ext. 49
Karen (Office)	Ext. 19

AUTO ACCIDENT investigation

Careless drivers injure hundreds of thousands of others and inflict enormous property damage annually. An experienced auto-accident attorney can help injured parties obtain fair compensation for medical expenses, property damage, lost wages and earning capacity, enjoyment of life, and pain and suffering. A lawyer’s investigation can determine the cause and liability of an auto accident by examining the accident scene, the automobiles, and questioning witnesses.

Evidence that investigators may obtain includes:

- Victims’ injuries
- Scene photographs
- Car-damage photos
- Accident debris
- Skid marks
- Traffic-control signage
- Roadway design
- Police or other surveillance video
- Eyewitness reports
- Angles of vision and other relevant indicators of cause



*Contact an experienced auto-accident attorney
to conduct your case review.*



Recent poll indicates strong public support of the civil justice system

Recently, the American Association for Justice released an important poll. It showed significant anxiety concerning corporate misconduct and large support among voters for a strong civil justice system to ensure corporate accountability and fairness. Key findings reveal that...

- Americans are deeply concerned about their nation's future and believe corporate misconduct is a major source of their anxiety. Worried "swing voters," who see corporate irresponsibility as a central problem, may play a pivotal role in the 2008 election.

- Voters support the civil justice system as an important remedy for corporate misconduct, and reject legal "reforms" that restrict plaintiffs' ability to hold corporations accountable and obtain fair restitution.

- Voters will support candidates who defend the civil system over candidates who assail "frivolous lawsuits" and advocate "tort reform." Pro-civil justice candidates not only command overwhelming support from swing voters, but also appeal to significant blocks of Republicans.

The report can be found online at <http://www.justice.org/pressroom/CJSPoIIMemo.pdf>.

RECENT CASE RESULTS

↳ **Auto vs. Auto**—The plaintiff was called to assist his son, whose vehicle had a mechanical breakdown. He arrived at the place of the breakdown and pulled his vehicle onto the shoulder, well out of the lanes of traffic. Upon determining the vehicle had to be towed, he went between the two vehicles and stood there to place a call to AAA. The intoxicated defendant driver's vehicle drifted off the roadway and violently rear-ended the plaintiff's vehicle, pushed it into the plaintiff, and propelled him onto the hood, windshield, and several feet into the air, over a chainlink fence, and down the embankment. The plaintiff sustained severe and life-changing injuries requiring multiple surgeries.

SETTLEMENT: \$6,200,000

↳ **Medical Malpractice**—The plaintiff claims for medical malpractice birth injury against the defendant hospital and doctor for negligently reading and interpreting the fetal monitor strip and prolonged partial hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, resulting in significant injury and damages due to this incident, including seizure disorder and speech and behavioral delays.

SETTLEMENT: \$2,335,000

↳ **Auto vs. Pedestrian**—The plaintiff, a pedestrian, received serious injuries, including traumatic brain injury and neck, back, abdominal, and other extremity injuries (requiring surgeries), caused by the defendant driver, who negligently failed to stop his van at the limit line of the crosswalk and collided with the plaintiff, causing him to tumble onto the hood of the van and slam onto asphalt 15–20 feet down the road.

SETTLEMENT: \$3,400,000

↳ **Auto vs. Auto**—The plaintiff and his passengers were in their vehicle, traveling on I-15 Freeway, when the defendant's truck, traveling at a high rate of speed, rear-ended the plaintiff's vehicle, causing it to overturn and slide a great distance. The plaintiff driver's serious injuries required four surgeries, and the passengers received traumatic injuries to the chest, abdomen, and back.

SETTLEMENT: \$1,000,000

Our firm's areas of interest

Aitken Aitken Cohn has chosen to specialize its practice in a few precise areas of law. The practice of law has become increasingly complex, and the firm's sophisticated clientele expect and deserve legal representatives fully aware of the nuances of their particular situations. Members of the firm, however, are always willing to adapt to the changing legal environment and explore new opportunities that are consistent with the firm's mission and goals. The following is a brief list of our areas of practice:

- Wrongful death
- Personal injury
- Products liability
- Aviation
- Insurance bad faith
- Commercial vehicle/Trucking liability
- Medical/Legal malpractice
- Commercial torts/Wrongful termination

Please see our Web site at www.aitkenlaw.com for further details in regard to each of these practice areas and for descriptions of other representative matters.



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Referrals

Thanks to all of you who have recommended our firm to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. We appreciate your vote of confidence and pledge to care for these "VIPs" as well as we care for you.

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for consultation with an attorney. Specific conditions always require consultation with appropriate legal professionals.

NOTICE: Special office hours

Friday, May 2, 2008

1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

The office will be closed until 1:30 p.m. for the 23rd Annual CSUF Special Games, Kathleen E. Faley Memorial, one of our favorite traditions. The entire staff participates to help create a "magical" day filled with laughter, high fives, hugs, games, food, and music for the "special" athletes. We will return to the office to assist you at 1:00 p.m.

If you wish to donate your time or money to this special event, call **Karen** at **714-434-1424**, or e-mail karen@aitkenlaw.com.

A special day
for
special athletes!



Home security tip

Even if your home is equipped with a security system, you can still use your car-key clicker fob as an alarm. Keep it nearby, during the day and especially at night, ready to activate.

If you hear a suspicious noise outside your home or you suspect someone is trying to enter illegally, press the fob's alarm or panic button. Your car horn alarm will start beeping loudly and won't stop until you press a button again to stop it.

The car alarm's noise might be a sufficient deterrent to anyone trying to break into your property. Chances are, they won't want to hang around with the car alarm sounding. Plus, your neighbors may hear the noise and look out their windows to see what all the commotion is about.

Your car keys could prevent a crime.