



A FEW LANDMARK CASES



LAURA SMALL V.
ORANGE COUNTY



DISNEYLAND'S BIG
THUNDER MOUNTAIN



GUTIERREZ V.
U.S. GOV'T



SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA EDISON



ANGEL'S
STADIUM



1990

1995

2000

2005

2010

2015

2020

DISNEYLAND'S COLUMBIA
SAILING SHIP



FAST FOOD
PLAYGROUND



PAT BOONE'S GRANDSON
RYAN CORBIN



TOYOTA



ORANGE UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT



1993 – LAURA SMALL

In one of the firm's first landmark cases, Wylie Aitken zealously represented five-year-old Laura Small who was violently mauled by a mountain lion at a county park.



1993 – LAURA SMALL

At only five-years old, Laura was blinded in her right eye, suffered brain damage and was left partially paralyzed after a cougar seized Laura's head in its mouth and viciously shook her body in front of her horrified mother.



1993 – LAURA SMALL

After a five-week trial, a jury awarded the child millions of dollars in damages determining that the county was negligent in failing to protect her. The Board of Supervisors voted to appeal the verdict a month later; but, after two years, the county board finally dropped the opposition.



RESULT

A jury verdict of \$2.1 million dollars.

1998 - DISNEYLAND'S COLUMBIA



Aitken Aitken Cohn represented the grieving family of a 34-year-old man who was killed on Christmas Eve in front of his wife and children as they waited to board Disneyland's "Columbia" Sailing Ship.

1998 - DISNEYLAND'S COLUMBIA



On that fateful evening, a defective cleat broke loose and struck both the man and his wife, killing him and horribly disfiguring her face.

1998 – DISNEYLAND’S COLUMBIA



This case, nationally referred to as the “Columbia Boat Incident”, sparked national debate on the safety of theme parks and brought about several theme park regulations into California law.

1998 - DISNEYLAND'S COLUMBIA



It took Anaheim police over 4 hours to arrive at the scene that Disneyland had already cleared and cleaned. This led to harsh public criticism of accident procedures at Disney.

1998 - DISNEYLAND'S COLUMBIA

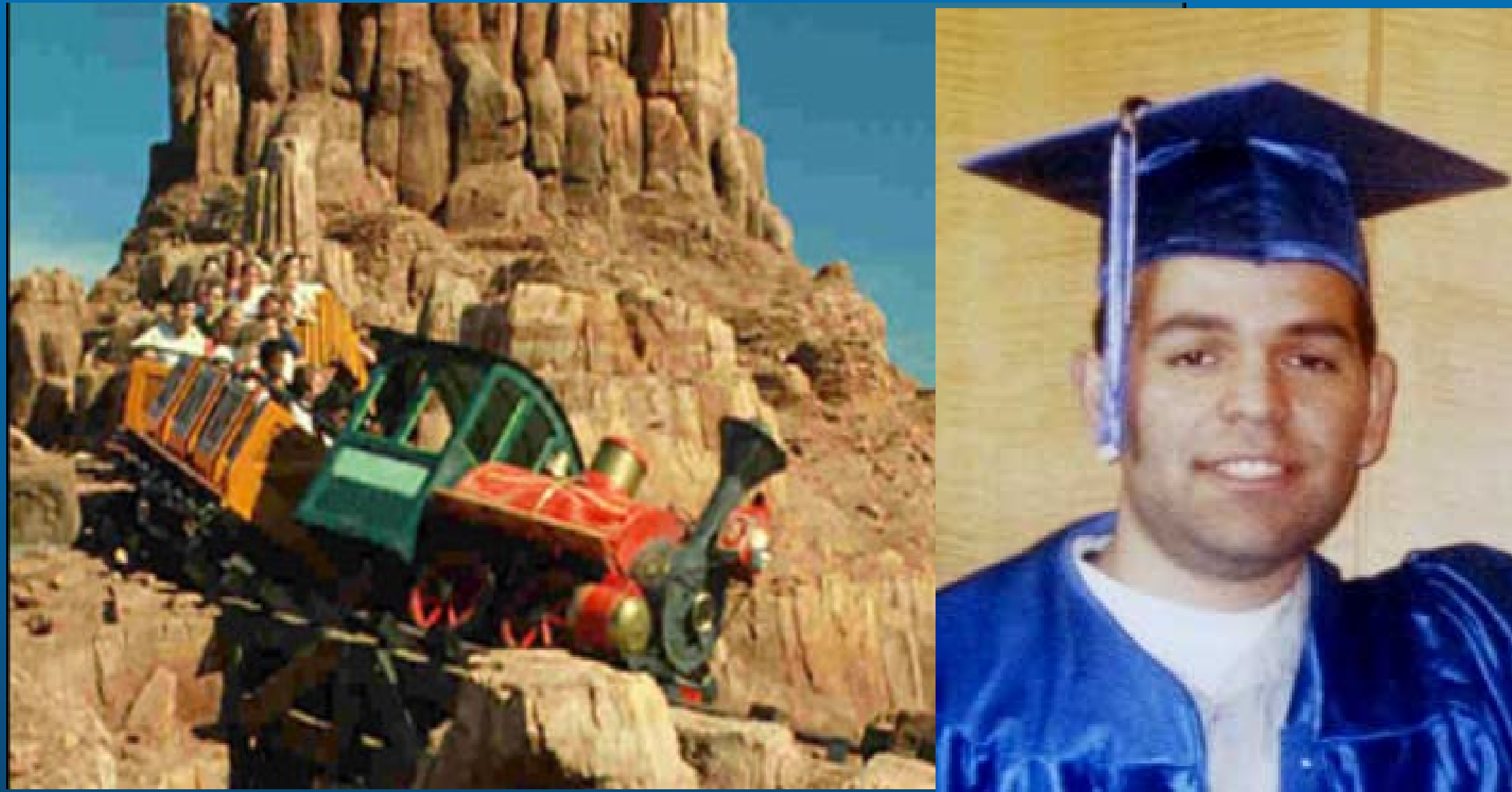


As a result, Disney undertook radical safety enhancements, and Anaheim police and paramedics are now stationed in the park to increase emergency response times. Theme park safety laws were also passed.

RESULT

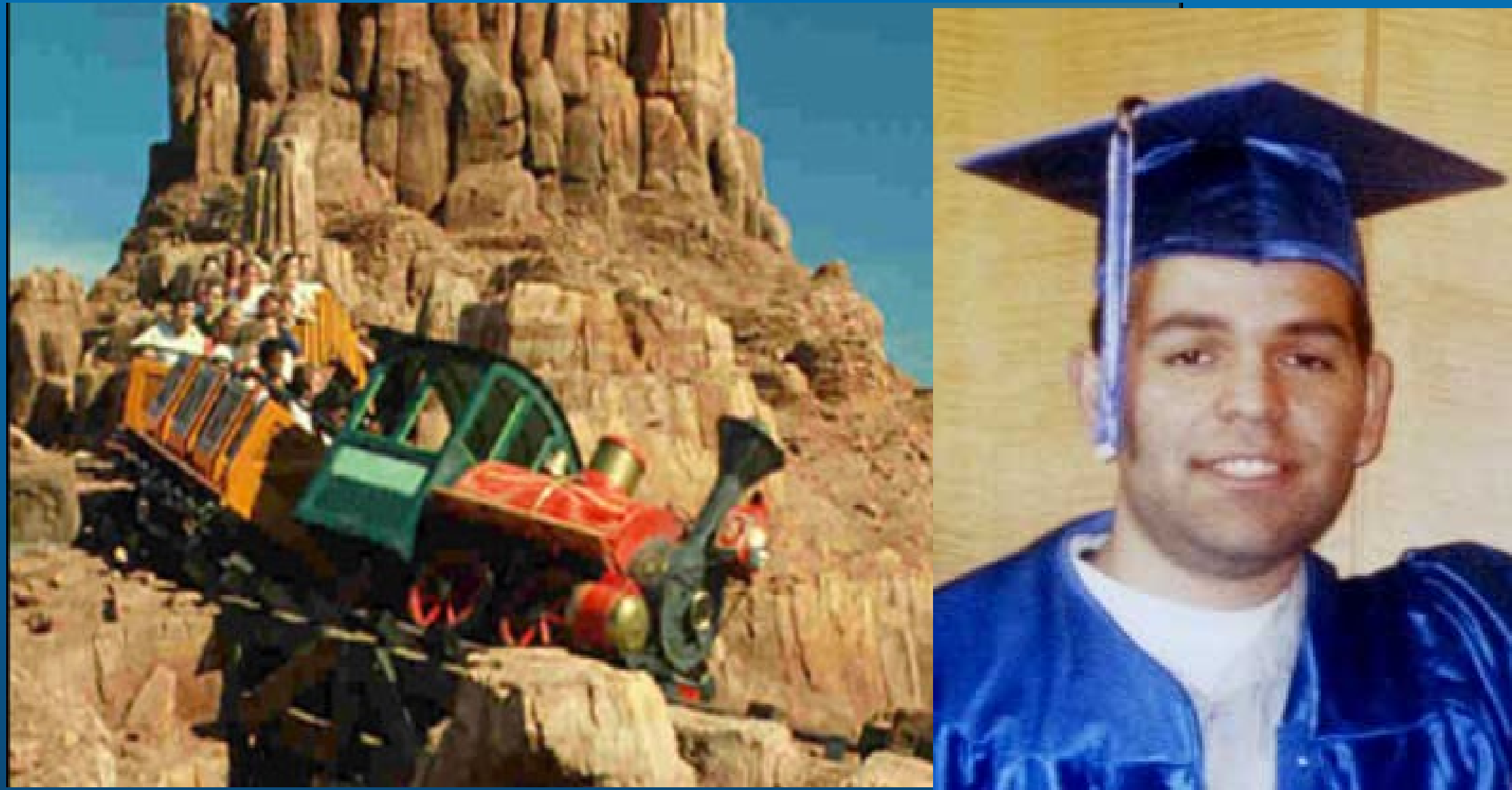
The final settlement amount is confidential, but *The Los Angeles Times* estimates the case settled for **\$25,000,000**.

2003 – DISNEYLAND’S BIG THUNDER MOUNTAIN



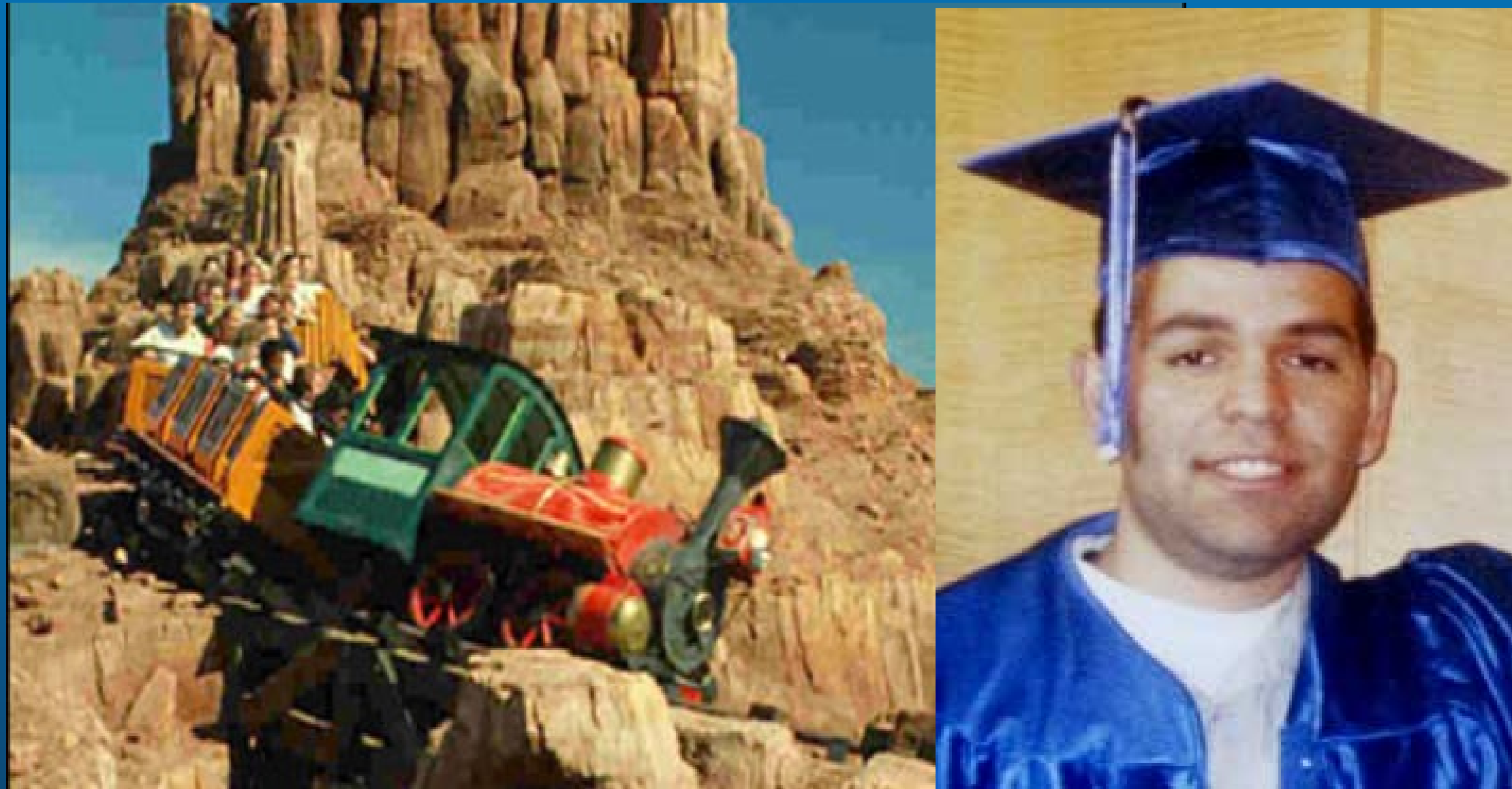
Just five years after the “Columbia Incident,” Aitken Aitken Cohn handled the wrongful death suit of 22-year-old Marcelo Torres.

2003 - DISNEYLAND'S BIG THUNDER MOUNTAIN



The Big Thunder Mountain locomotive landed on top of Marcelo's passenger car, crushing his chest and ultimately causing his death due to an improperly tightened and unsecured guide wheel.

2003 – DISNEYLAND'S BIG THUNDER MOUNTAIN



As a result of the regulations set in place by Aitken Aitken Cohn's efforts following the Columbia Boat Incident, the State was able to determine that a safety wire was not properly installed.

RESULT

The case settled three days before trial for a **confidential amount** (estimated to be in the **millions**).

2005 - FAST FOOD PLAYGROUND

Aitken Aitken Cohn represented little Jacob Buckett, who fell onto the hard tile floor beneath him (his younger sister watching in terror) as they were climbing on horizontal support poles at a national hamburger fast food restaurant's play area.



2005 - FAST FOOD PLAYGROUND

Jacob was in a coma for months and suffered a horrific brain injury which left him with permanent physical, mental and emotional impairments. To this day, Jacob needs daily assistance and is prone to frustration and violent temper tantrums.



2005 - FAST FOOD PLAYGROUND

Aitken Aitken Cohn was able to prove that the corporation knew about the dangers of its playground structure, yet refused to take the proper steps to ensure its safety.



RESULT

Defendants agreed to a settlement of **\$20 million**.

2007 – GUTIERREZ V. U.S. GOVERNMENT



Leilani Gutierrez was four years old when she was involved in a major car crash that changed her life forever.

2007 – GUTIERREZ V. U.S. GOVERNMENT



At a fateful intersection, with Leilani securely in her car seat, Leilani and her mother were violently struck by another vehicle which caused their car to spin out of control and slam against a utility pole. The pole then fell and crushed their car.

2007 – GUTIERREZ V. U.S. GOVERNMENT



Although Leilani and her mother both survived the crash, Leilani was rendered a ventilator-dependent quadriplegic, paralyzed from the neck down, and her mother suffered from PTSD.

2007 – GUTIERREZ V. U.S. GOVERNMENT



Aitken Aitken Cohn fought on behalf of Leilani and her mother as they went up against the U.S. Government, proving the defendant driver (who ran the red light) was in the course and scope of his employment at the time of the accident, achieving the largest Federal Tort Claims Act personal injury verdict in U.S. history.

RESULT

After **five years** of litigation, Aitken Aitken Cohn secured a verdict of over **\$55 million**.

2010 – RYAN CORBIN

At just 24 years old, Ryan Corbin had graduated from Pepperdine University with honors, written his first screenplay, and was engaged to be married.



2010 – RYAN CORBIN

Then on a hot summer day, the grandson of the legendary Pat Boone, fell through a Plexiglas skylight on the roof of his apartment complex building, landing 3 stories below, fracturing his skull and leaving him with serious brain damage.



2010 – RYAN CORBIN

Terrified and desperate, Pat Boone and the Boone Family appeared on shows such as CNN News, Larry King Live, and NBC Today asking for prayers and support and Ryan began making progress.



2010 – RYAN CORBIN

Although Ryan's condition has improved dramatically, he still fights to regain pre-incident levels of functioning, and the family has not given up hope.



2010 – RYAN CORBIN

Aitken Aitken Cohn represented Ryan and was able to secure a substantial award to fund Ryan's lifetime medical care costs as well as help establish the non-profit organization, Ryan's Reach to assist traumatic brain injury victims.



RESULT

The case settled for **\$10,125,000.**

2010 – RYAN CORBIN

To date, Ryan's Reach has helped raise over half a million dollars to assist TBI survivors and their families by providing scholarships to attend High Hopes, a comprehensive rehabilitation program, as well as opening up a respite care group home where families can drop off their loved ones to get a much needed break.



2010 – RYAN CORBIN

In 2015, Aitken Aitken Cohn was approached to assist Ryan's Reach with their annual charity golf tournament. Excited to take on an active leading role in raising funds for TBI victims, the partners unanimously agreed to help.



2010 – RYAN CORBIN

Last year, the tournament raised over \$100,000 and the firm continues to look forward to the event every year.



2011 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON



In 2011, poorly maintained power lines caused an explosion and set fire to a San Bernardino family's home in the early morning hours.

2011 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON



Two young children watched in horror as their father, mother, and older sibling were fatally electrocuted attempting to put out the fire and come to each others aid.

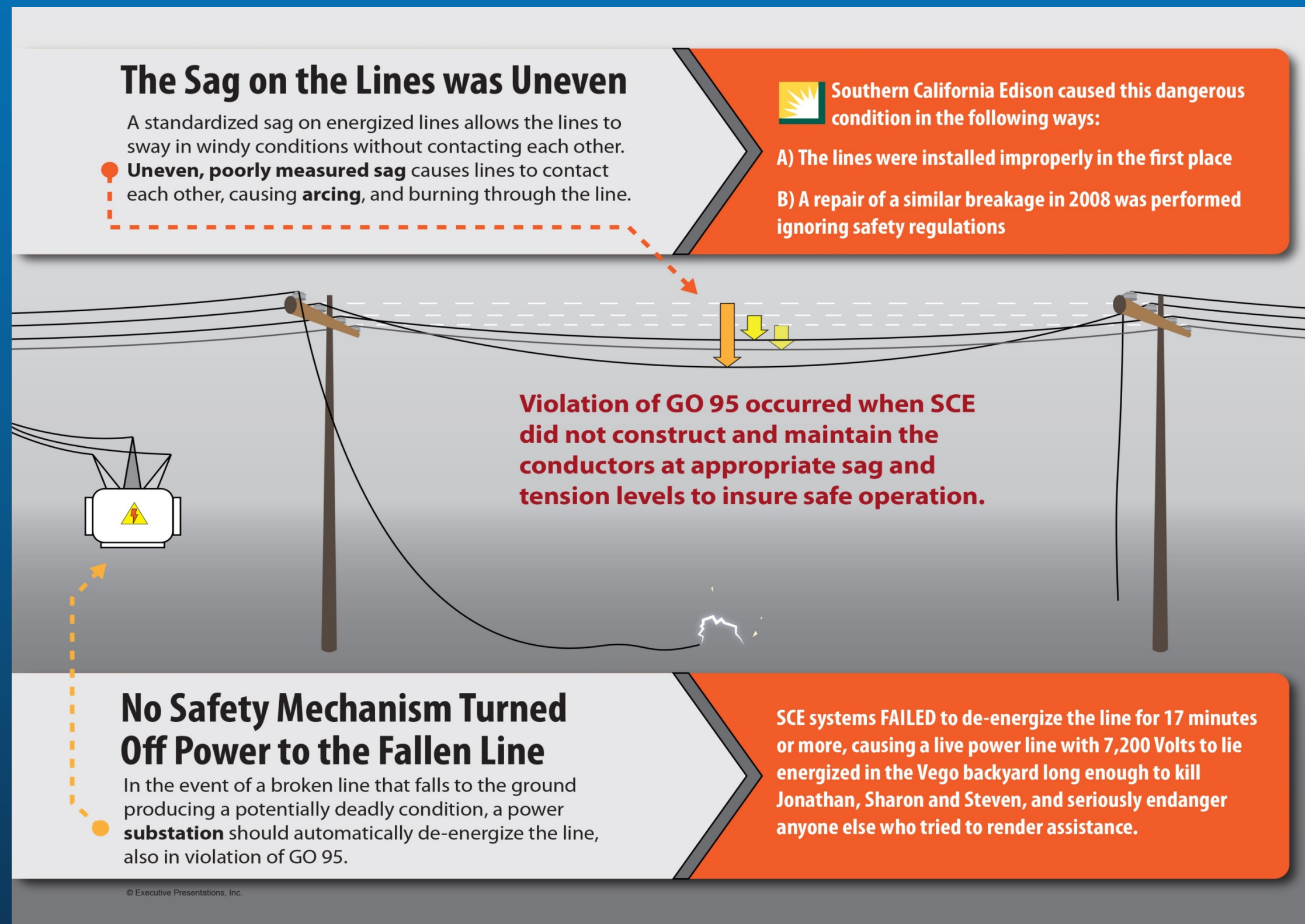
2011 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON



Aitken Aitken Cohn took on Southern California Edison who was responsible for the lines, securing a large, highly confidential settlement, to care for the needs of these young children.

2011 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

Our firm took it a step further and warranted SCE roll out a safety awareness campaign regarding the dangers of downed power lines so that these tragedies can be prevented in the future.



RESULT

The case settled for **a confidential amount**, estimated to be in the millions.

2013 – TOYOTA LITIGATION

Aitken Aitken Cohn was chosen as national liaison counsel for a team of more than 30 law firms and 80 lawyers nationwide that represented millions of Toyota vehicle owners in the largest automobile class action lawsuit settlement in U.S. history.



2013 – TOYOTA LITIGATION

Toyota owners throughout the country were compensated for the economic losses they suffered due to the sudden and unintended acceleration of their vehicles.



RESULT

The total value of the settlement was **\$1.63 billion**.

2015 – ANGELS STADIUM NEGOTIATIONS



When the bargaining stalled for the Angels Baseball Stadium lease renewal, the Anaheim City Council, on a unanimous vote, brought in founding partner, Wylie Aitken, to serve as the City of Anaheim's lead negotiator.

2015 – ANGELS STADIUM NEGOTIATIONS



With an estimated \$225 million dollars at stake and even the remote possibility that Anaheim could lose the Angels baseball team, the City recognized they needed a high-level, veteran negotiator with unsurpassed acuity and expertise. Wylie Aitken was selected.

2015 – ANGELS STADIUM NEGOTIATIONS



The City of Anaheim, Orange County, and Angels' fans nationwide, will no doubt benefit from Wylie's current and future efforts to forge an equitable deal for all parties. Stay tuned.

2017 – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CASES



Eleven school children were being driven home from El Rancho Charter Middle School when the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) bus driver lost consciousness behind the wheel, due to an existing medical condition. OUSD denied responsibility for the actions of its driver.

2017 – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CASES



The bus swerved over traffic lanes, went off the road and crashed into some trees. The families of five seriously injured children filed suits against Orange Unified School District. Aitken Aitken Cohn represented two of those families, one, the lead plaintiff.

2017 – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CASES



On the day the matter was set to begin trial, the attorneys of the families and the Orange Unified School District reached a \$10 million settlement on behalf of the five children.

2017 – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CASES

Aitken Aitken Cohn hopes the case will serve as a strong reminder for all school districts to be extra vigilant when it comes to the transportation of our children.



RESULT

The case settled for \$10 million on behalf of the five children.