

Daily Journal

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

TOP **PLAINTIFF LAWYERS** 2024



CHRIS R. AITKEN

AITKEN AITKEN COHN
SANTA ANA
PERSONAL INJURY

Chris Aitken is a consumer safety advocate who consistently delivers in some of the most complex and emotionally charged personal injury cases. His legal journey began in 1987, but his true immersion started much earlier.

“In high school, I was sorting medical records, assisting with various legal tasks and even helped develop case management software before the internet era,” Aitken said. “I continued doing legal work

throughout college, including the production of day-in-the-life videos for settlement and trial, and eventually went on to law school, building a foundation in the field from an early age.”

Some of Aitken’s recent matters involved representing, along with partner Megan Demshki, a husband and father of six who was severely injured in a freeway crash caused by an unlicensed driver. *Ruehle v. California Republican Party*, 30-2017-00912044 (Orange Super. Ct., filed March 30, 2017).

Despite the initial challenges, they were able to secure an \$11 million settlement from one of the major political parties.

“To my knowledge, this had never been done before, and we are very proud of that accomplishment,” Aitken said.

In another significant case, he highlighted the importance of workplace safety and accountability. This wrongful death lawsuit, stemming from Cris Abraham’s alleged death due to carbon dioxide fumes at LAX, aimed to ensure that no other worker or family would have to endure such a devastating loss again. *Abraham v. City of Los Angeles*; Los Angeles World Airports; Champion Fire System; Communication Technology Services Inc. et al., CIVSB2315202 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed July 6, 2023).

“This case, which is currently being litigated, is about justice for Cris and his loved ones, and about pushing for the necessary changes to protect all workers in the future,” Aitken said

Aitken has also been successful in helping clients with preexisting conditions overcome significant challenges in proving damages in auto accident cases.

For instance, he worked closely with medical professionals and a client’s family to emphasize the significant value of even one more year of life with loved ones. *Skae v. Khademi Case*, 30-2022-01266-830-CU-PA-WJC (Orange Super. Ct., filed June 27, 2022).

“For example, one of my clients was initially directed to hospice care at the time of the incident,” Aitken said. “We worked closely with medical professionals to present opinions that extended his projected lifespan. More importantly, we collaborated with his family to emphasize the significant value of even one more year of life with his loved ones. As his life was tragically cut short, the family wasn’t given the opportunity to say proper goodbyes, something hospice care would have allowed. This loss of closure was invaluable, and we were able to secure a successful outcome by highlighting the profound emotional impact on the family.”