

Top Plaintiffs' Verdicts | By Impact

Crenshaw v. Land O' Lakes

eople thought Brian Panish was a bit nuts for taking on a big personal injury case against a local creamery in Kings County, part of California's agricultural heartland, the San Joaquin Valley.

"Everyone kept telling me 'people are very conservative there. You're out of your mind," said Panish, of Panish Shea & Boyle.

Panish had gone to college elsewhere in the Central Valley, at Fresno State University, and knew the kind of people who lived there.

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"I believe they are fair people and if you prove the case to them, they are going to give you the money," he said.

Jurors did just that on Oct. 25. Panish and colleague Robert Glassman, working with attorney Michael Silvers, won a \$6.4 million verdict for their client, the largest personal injury verdict in Kings County history.

The case involved a Corcoran State Prison correctional officer who was severely injured when a truck driver for Land O' Lakes made an unsafe left turned and plowed into his motorcycle. Crenshaw v. Land O' Lakes, 09C0254

Plaintiff Robert Crenshaw was left with multiple broken bones and fractures, including a broken left femur, which causes him to limp to this day.

Despite being members of a very conservative community hard hit by the bad economy, jurors really seemed to identify with Crenshaw during the seven-day trial, Panish said.

"The plaintiff is a hard working, 17-year correctional officer, good guy. He was not in any way trying to oversell his injuries. In

Amount of award:

\$6.4 million

Personal Injury

Kings County Superior Court Hanford

Judge Thomas DeSantos

Plaintiffs' attorneys: Panish Shea & Boyle, Brian J. Panish and Robert S. Glassman in Los Angeles; Michael H. Silvers Law Corp., Michael H. Silvers in Los Angeles

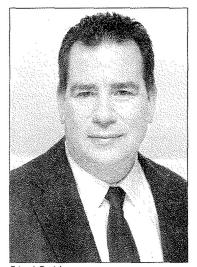
Defendant's attorneys: Petrie, Dorfmeier & Morris, J. David Petrie and Lawrence DeWitt in Fresno

fact, he down-played them," he said. "He was just honest."

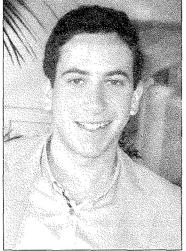
Glassman said private investigators hired by the defense took hours of secret videotape of Crenshaw in an attempt to prove he was exaggerating his injuries, but the effort backfired. Crenshaw's side ended up using the footage for their case.

"I definitely think it had to do with having a righteous client and a righteous case," Glassman said

- Amy Yarbrough







Robert S. Glassman

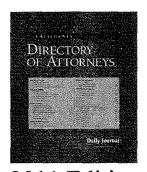
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