
Significant Representations

John F. Brown Jr.

Principal

Brown Law LLC

MATTER SUMMARIES

- Obtained seven-figure jury verdict in Federal Court in Brooklyn utilizing experts from seven different disciplines along with computer animations to demonstrate that facility maintenance, not construction defects, prevented operation of seven-ton hydraulic flight simulators.
- Successfully resolved matter after securing Illinois appellate court reversal of trial court's dismissal of case involving explosion damage caused by latent defect in 35-year-old one inch steel natural gas supply pipe located in hotel boiler room.
- Shortly before trial, negotiated for plaintiffs a settlement of 75% of the monetary damages in commercial products case arising out of multi-million dollar fire at electronics manufacturing plant in New Hampshire despite return of defense verdicts by three mock jury panels and finding that plaintiff should be assessed 75% comparative fault.
- Represented petroleum industry services firm involving structural failure of oil rig platform and crane in Gulf of Mexico off of Louisiana coast.
- Achieved timely risk hedge in construction matter following conclusion of closing arguments at trial in State College, Pennsylvania through "high-low" negotiation, leading to successful result for client despite later adverse jury verdict.
- Directed activities of team of eight lawyers over three years and took all principal discovery depositions in defending Fortune 500 Company in \$100 million fraud and breach of contract lawsuit arising out of actuarially based, quasi self-insurance program utilizing an offshore based reinsurer. Resolved the matter for a de minimis amount following filing of a summary judgment motion.
- Mistrial declared after 13-day trial and hung jury in matter representing insurer sued for damages arising out of Delaware shore restaurant fire. The fraud defense presented at trial focused on possible motives connected to related companies involved in bankruptcy filings, alleged fraudulent transfers of real property and changes in beneficiaries on associated policies of insurance.
- Successfully advanced theory that equipment financing loan given in exchange for preferential pricing created buyer's duty to make reasonable inquiry into thermal analysis/mass balance issues for chemical distillation process conducted by seller firm who was subsequently indicted by government for a multitude of OSHA violations connected to massive explosion.

- Successfully resolved case involving a dropped load of 230-ton generator during power plant construction. One of a kind in world market product design of self-propelled crane/gantry raised issue of whether operating and manufacturing tolerances or operator error caused tip over accident.
- At end of trial, pre-engineered metal building components manufacturer, erector, and general contractor settled with building owner client at a multiple over four times the offer at time of jury selection in case arising out of warehouse roof collapse.
- Obtained settlement for Fortune 500 chemical company joint venture from German manufacturer of cold service process vessel for welding and material specification defects in multi-million dollar case arising out of explosion at synthetic fuel plant in Houston, Texas.
- Overcame 400 plus pages of Daubert motions directed against seven experts in products case arising out of defect in loss compensating commercial power meter measuring high voltage energy use.
- Following hung jury and mistrial, favorably resolved matter involving shopping mall roof collapse that occurred during the March 1993 "Storm of the Century."
- Just prior to jury selection, reached seven-figure settlement on behalf of insurer and owner of Ozark mountain resort in explosion case brought against bulk propane supplier on theory that supplier had duty to warn owner that mercaptan odorant would potentially be ineffective given clay soils in region.
- In one of a number of successful representations of major South Florida city, filed suit against manufacturer of large diameter prestressed concrete pipe which imploded during use for municipal water service. Also represented city in connection with automated compost facility design, and other water, sewage, and wet well facilities.
- Successfully represented oil refiner in lawsuit for severe environmental damages against technical services firm alleging that finite element method analysis demonstrated that defendant's grouting work along ring beam caused structural failure of interior metal plate tank bottom releasing the tank's entire contents.
- During the second week of trial in representation of owners and insurer of large health club complex in Maryland, defendants capitulated to plaintiffs' pre-trial seven figure settlement demand despite state fire marshal finding that owner had failed polygraph, sabotaged sprinkler system, and set fire to pay for alleged drug habit.
- After week of trial in Portsmouth, Virginia and close of plaintiff's case, defendant refrigeration service firm settled case for an eightfold multiple of offer at time of opening statement, on theory of failure to perform adequate diagnostics of critical electrical control components.
- Immediately prior to plaintiff's closing argument, case settled favorably for a multiple of over six times the pre-trial offer in construction management case brought against successor design firm.
- Recovered over 85% of damages for homeowner and insurer in seven-figure settlement with manufacturer of luxury kitchen appliances arising out of mansion fire in New York despite product compliance with UL listing and fire department's initial call cancellation resulting from language barrier between owner's Hindi speaking servant and alarm company call center.