



## WORKPLACE NEGLIGENCE

A large-scale loss can come at you from any direction, but it doesn't have to derail your company's growth. While you stay focused on growing your business, we can help you protect it. Travelers has the expertise and experience to help manage large-scale losses, like these workplace negligence judgments that topped the National Law Journal's Top 100 Verdicts of 2018.<sup>1</sup>



### Improper Supervision Led to Assault

While attending a party at an apartment complex, a 14-year-old girl was attacked and assaulted by a security guard at the facility. In subsequent litigation against the guard's employer, Crime Prevention Agency (CPA), plaintiff's counsel asserted that the firm knew of the guard's past improper behavior against guests and tenants and hired him even though he was not licensed to be an armed guard. Additionally, counsel argued that CPA "ignored circumstances that any reasonable person would interpret as leading to the injury."

The court determined that CPA was liable via summary judgment and the case was tried on the issue of damages. CPA did not appear at trial and was not represented by counsel.

**\$1,000,000,000**

Source: National Law Journal/ALM Reprints & content Licensing. Top 100 Verdicts of 2018, Renetta Cheston-Thornton v. HACC Pointe South Inc., Crime Prevention Agency Inc., et al.



### Falling Pipe Kills Worker

A 1,000-pound pipe was knocked loose at a South Texas refinery when a heat exchanger, being moved by a crane, struck it. The pipe fell and landed on one of the riggers for the move, killing him instantly. His family filed suit against the facility, the crane company and the rigging company, alleging negligence and violation of the operator's safety plan.

Two defendants settled with the family before trial. Plaintiff's counsel alleged that the remaining defendant, B&G Crane Services, was 90% responsible for the incident. B&G denied negligence, arguing that the facility owner and the rigging company oversaw the move. The jury found negligence for all three parties, awarding \$44,370,000 in damages. That number was reduced to \$20,791,235, post-trial.

**\$20,791,235**

Source: National Law Journal/ALM Reprints & content Licensing. Top 100 Verdicts of 2018, Hector Barron, Jacqueline M. Berrios and Melissa Perez v. ExxonMobil Oil Corporation, B&G Crane Services, and AltairStrickland.



## Hotel Chain Liable for Stabbing Death

A woman brought her three children to a hotel in Baymont, Texas, to spend time with her ex-husband, the children's father. While making the drop-off, the man repeatedly stabbed the woman, resulting in her death. During the attack, the children attempted to use the in-room phone to call for help, then attempted to alert hotel staff to the emergency. Despite these efforts, help was not summoned until a guest in a neighboring room called emergency services almost 20 minutes later.

The family of the deceased filed suit against the hotel. The jury returned a verdict of \$41,550,000, with hotel ownership responsible for 20%. The parties settled for \$2.4 million in mediation.

# \$2,400,000

Source: National Law Journal/ALM Reprints & content Licensing. Top 100 Verdicts of 2018, Estate of Kari Rene Hunt Dunn, et al. v. OM Lodging, LLC, Wyndham Worldwide, Inc., Brad A. Dunn, et al.



## Alcohol Service Led to Fatal Car Crash

After being served alcohol at a local nightclub, a 20-year-old caused a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death of one person and injuries to two others in another vehicle. The husband of the deceased and father of one of the injured parties, as well as the other injured individual, filed suit against the establishment that served the 20-year-old, alleging failure to check her ID and continuing to serve her despite clear intoxication.

After a failure to file a response by the defendant, the case proceeded to a damages-only trial. The jury awarded damages for each party in the vehicle as well as funeral expenses and pain and suffering for the deceased.

# \$27,091,054

Source: National Law Journal/ALM Reprints & content Licensing. Top 100 Verdicts of 2018, Tom Sitton, Estate of Pamela Sitton, and Julie Pugh v. Ceeda Enterprises, et al.

Learn how Excess Casualty coverage from Travelers can help protect you from the impact of exposures like these.

**Contact your Travelers representative today for more information.**

<sup>1</sup>National Law Journal/ALM Reprints & content Licensing, Top 100 Verdicts of 2018.



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