

# Daily Journal

February 12, 2014

## TOP VERDICTS OF 2013

### TOP DEFENSE RESULTS

## Sohn v. Easton-Bell Sports Inc.

**J**ames J. Yukevich, a partner at Yukevich Cavanaugh who won a defense victory for a bicycle helmet manufacturer in a product liability trial, credited sophisticated technological tools for helping his firm prevail at trial.

The plaintiff in the case was a cyclist who suffered severe brain damage while wearing defendant Easton-Bell Sports Inc.'s helmet. His attorneys argued it was improperly designed.

Among the disputes that arose between opposing counsel was the location of skull fractures. So the Los Angeles-based Yukevich had an expert create a three-dimensional model of the plaintiff's skull using a 3-D printer.

"The plaintiffs wanted to say it was in one place because it was good for them," he said. But the model allowed jurors to "see the fracture location very clearly, and it was exactly where our experts believed it was."

*case*  
**INFO**

**Product liability**  
Los Angeles County  
Superior Court Judge Maria E. Stratton

**Defense attorneys:** Yukevich Cavanaugh, James J. Yukevich, Thomas Borncamp

**Plaintiff's attorneys:** Raymond P. Johnson; Anapol Schwartz, Larry E. Coben

That evidence, he said, helped persuade jurors last August that his client was not at fault. *Sohn v. Easton-Bell Sports Inc.*, LC095289 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Oct. 27, 2011).

The plaintiffs' attorneys, he said, contended that the design of the Giro Pneumo bicycle helmet left 60-year-old Jeffrey Sohn's head exposed when he fell at the end of an 85-mile



THOMAS BORNCAMP



JAMES J. YUKEVICH

ride near Sunol in 2009.

But Yukevich's arguments in a Van Nuys courtroom, paired with the skull model, demonstrated that an alternative design proposed by a plaintiff's expert witness "didn't have coverage in the area the skull fracture occurred," he said.

At a time when makers of helmets for football, cycling and other sports are increas-

ingly under scrutiny, Yukevich said, this verdict could have broad implications.

"The message that goes with this is that just because someone has an injury while wearing any kind of helmet does not mean there was something defective with the helmet," he said.

— Chase Scheinbaum

Supplement to the Los Angeles and San Francisco

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**YC** YUKEVICH | CAVANAUGH



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The attorneys and staff of Yukevich | Cavanaugh proudly congratulate the Sohn v. Easton Bell trial team – James Yukevich, Thomas Borncamp, David Turner and Andrea McCarthy – for their selection to the Daily Journal Top 20 Defense Verdicts for 2013.

For the last five years, Yukevich | Cavanaugh has been selected by the Daily Journal for a Top Defense Verdict. We thank our clients for the opportunity to be of service.



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