

Daily Journal

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

TOP 40 UNDER FORTY 2024



Justin M. Marvisi

Yukevich | Cavanaugh
LOS ANGELES • AGE 35

Justin Marvisi and his colleagues specialize in representing defendants “in the worst of the worst kinds of cases,” where the damages exposure is high or liability is undisputed, he said. Defendants “turn to us because they know that we are going to... evaluate the cases properly and give them recommendations as to their exposures and make proper recommendations.”

Often, they are brought in just months before trial after another law firm has mishandled the case. “We’re seen as

the last line of defense,” Marvisi said. In October, Marvisi settled a case midway through jury selection that none of the parties — including his client — thought could be settled. In fact, “our own client didn’t want to settle,” he said. *Woodall v. GTC Freight Ltd.*, CIVDS1804318 (San Bern. Super. Ct., filed Feb. 22, 2018).

He represented Sysco Corp., a food distributor that hired a trucking company to deliver a large load of butter to the East Coast. But that company hired another trucking company for the job, and that second company’s driver caused a horrific accident in which two people died and two others suffered traumatic brain injuries.

“I went into that case knowing full well that if we got a verdict, it was going to be a significant verdict,” Marvisi said. Achieving the agreement required “multiple backchannel conversations with plaintiff’s counsel and a mediator” and then presenting his client with “a best and final” proposal. The client was thrilled, and the plaintiffs were relieved and grateful, he said.

In August, Marvisi settled a \$30 million-plus case brought on behalf of an intellectually disabled man who claimed he was electrocuted and severely injured after a faulty utility meter was bypassed in order to avoid several days without power. Another firm had

defended the utility company for several years until Yukevich | Cavanaugh was brought in months before trial. *Sperry v. Algonquin Power & Utilities*, PC20180378 (El Dorado Super. Ct., filed July 27, 2018).

About a year after the electrical issues, the plaintiff had developed severe spasticity, incontinence and other problems. But Marvisi argued the plaintiff did not show injuries typical of contact with an electric circuit. “We were very confident that the gentleman ... never sustained an electrical injury at all,” he said. The case settled about two weeks before trial.

“It just goes to show that ... you need to focus on how to make things clear for a lay person to understand,” Marvisi continued.

Some of Marvisi’s other recent cases include defending one of the producers of the movie “Rust” and defending Ferrari against a claim by a driver who spun out navigating the “corkscrew” turns at the Laguna Seca racetrack.

He is tentatively set to go to trial in January defending the maker of a CNG cylinder that ruptured, causing a trucker serious orthopedic and other injuries. *Johnson v. Rush Enterprises Inc.*, 1:19-cv-00105 (E.D. Cal., filed Jan. 24, 2019).