

**CASE TYPE:** Negligent Safety Procedures  
**RESULT:** \$1.15 million

**COUNTY:** Los Angeles  
**REPORT TYPE:** Settlement

**SUMMARY:** Electrician splicing cable is burned when job foreman switches on current; Male, 48, flash burns to arms/chest

**CASE:** Roger Klier v. Southern Contracting  
**PLTF ATTY:** Greene, Broillet, et a., By: Brian J. Panish and Geoff Wells, Santa Monica

**DEFT ATTY:** Norby & Brodeur, By: John G. Tavetian, Torrance  
**PLTF MED'L:** Thomas Vecchione, M.D., Plastic Surgeon, San Diego  
Michael Falvey, M.D., Plastic Surgeon, Torrance  
Ronald Ritz, M.D., Plastic Surgeon, Durango, CO

**DEFT MED'L:** Anthony Sokol, M.D., Plastic Surgeon, Beverly Hills  
Steven Levy, M.D., Neurologist, Los Angeles

**PLTF TECH'L:** Ralph Armington, Electrical Engineer, Chicago, IL

**FACTS:** On June 12, 1991 Pltf, a 48-year-old journeyman electrician, was employed by Quality Cable Splicing and was working at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. On the date of the accident the Pltf was in the process of cable splicing during a scheduled power outage. The job foreman, employed by Deft Southern Contracting, began the process of energizing the electrical switches. Electrical current passed through a switchhouse that had not been locked out during the outage with the result that the circuit on which Pltf was working became energized and he suffered electrical burns.

**PER PLTF:** That the Deft foreman failed to follow appropriate safety procedures prior to the beginning of the outage; that he should have checked all the switches in the switchhouse that could have been effected by the outage; that had an appropriate procedure been followed Deft foreman would have noted that the switches were not all locked out; that such action would have prevented the injuries to Pltf.

**INJURIES:** 2nd/3rd degree burns to arms and chest. Pltf was permanently disabled from working as an electrician.  
**DEFENSE:** Contended that Pltf failed to follow established safety practices on the job which resulted in his injuries; that Pltf failed to lock out the switch on which he was working; that this was contrary to job safety procedures and Pltf's union training; that additionally, Pltf was working after hours when he was not authorized to work; that he had been advised on several occasions of the scheduled outage. Deft further contended that Pltf had a history of prior accidents on this job; that his employer failed to provide adequate training and was, in fact, removed from the job site pursuant to a request by the U.S. Government after the accident.

**SPECIALS:** \$630,000: \$100,000 past medical; \$30,000 future medical; \$240,000 L.E.

**SETTLEMENT:** \$1.15 million: \$1.1 million settlement to Pltf and wavier of \$240,000 WC lien for the payment of \$50,000.

**DATE:** 12/1/94  
**CRA #** 5615

**JUDGE:** Richard Charvant **COURT:** L.A. County Superior Court

**CASE TYPE:** Discrimination in Employment  
**RESULT:** \$397,000

**COUNTY:** Los Angeles  
**REPORT TYPE:** Jury Trial

**SUMMARY:** Immigrant, an Egyptian lawyer, is continually passed over for promotion at Farmers Insurance; Female, 63, emotional distress

**CASE:** Claire Hanna v. Farmers Group, Inc.

**CASE NO.** BC 023 868

**PLTF ATTY:** Love & Bosserman, By: Richard A. Love, Los Angeles

**DEFT ATTY:** Tharpe & Howell, By: Todd Howell and Christopher S. Maile, Los Angeles

**PLTF MED'L:** Adrian Finkelstein, M.D., Psychiatrist, Los Angeles  
Farid Farid, M.D., Cardiologist, Los Angeles

**DEFT MED'L:** Feldman-Sharig, M.D., Psychiatrist,

**PLTF TECH'L:** Stephanie Rizzardi, Economist, Pasadena

Arthur Brodshatzer, Accountant, San Diego

**DEFT TECH'L:** David Lewin, Ph.D., Economist, Los Angeles