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### Welcome to the Inaugural Rouda Feder Tietjen & McGuinn Quarterly Newsletter!

For over 40 years, our firm has been dedicated to advocating for those who have suffered serious injuries and loss, and we're excited to launch this newsletter to keep you informed about our ongoing work and achievements. Each quarter, we'll highlight key updates on active litigation, media coverage, and thought leadership from our team. We'll also recognize the incredible work of our attorneys and staff, share client successes, and showcase our firm's commitment to making a difference. And at the end, check out what our team has been reading and listening to.

[Learn more about our newest cases, our team, and more!](#)



## Legal Updates

### Teen Cannabis Vaping & Cannabis Induced Psychosis

- Partner [June Bashant](#), alongside attorneys at Girard Sharp and Ribera Law Firm, is taking on the teen vaping public health crisis and its links to Cannabis Induced Psychosis. Together, they represent teens and the families of teens who used STIIIZY's high-potency THC products and allege they then developed severe mental health challenges.
- Learn more about the fight to hold STIIIZY responsible in the [San Fernando Valley Sun](#).

### \$15 Million Settlement Against UC San Francisco

- Partner June Bashant secured a landmark \$15 million settlement in December against the University of California San Francisco after her client experienced alleged medical battery and suffered nerve damage due to a formaldehyde injection error during surgery.
- June was featured in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#), highlighting critical patient safety issues in the healthcare industry.

### Los Angeles Fires

- RFTM has joined forces with [Brent & Fioi LLP](#) to advocate for the victims of the devastating California Eaton Fire in Altadena and surrounding communities. We are representing residents who have suffered property damage, personal injuries, and emotional distress.
- In January, we hosted a community town hall in Altadena, providing our clients with face-to-face access to our legal team, addressing their concerns, and sharing essential resources to support their recovery.

[For news and updates, visit our California Fires page.](#)

## Firm Happenings

### Partner Loren Schwartz in *Bloomberg Law*

Partner Loren Schwartz explored the legal principles behind California's system of Comparative Negligence in tort cases in [Bloomberg Law](#). He discussed five proven systems for approaching cases involving comparative negligence.

- Conducting thorough investigations to uncover critical evidence.
- Crafting strong narratives that highlight the defendant's fault.
- Proactively addressing "bad facts" to build credibility.
- Using visuals and demonstratives to strengthen arguments.
- Humanizing the plaintiff to connect with the jury on a personal level.

### New Year's Eve Uber Promotion

On New Year's Eve, RFTM encouraged Bay Area residents to celebrate safely with its campaign "\$25 for 2025." Residents living in the area could sign up for a free \$25 Uber credit to get home after the party, and we helped over 35 residents kick off 2025!

### RFTM Launches Instagram

RFTM has launched its Instagram! [Follow us](#) at @rtmlaw to stay up to date on the latest news and updates from the firm.

## Staff Spotlight: Loren Schwartz



Meet the newest partner at RFTM! [Loren](#) was promoted to partner in February 2025. He is an outstanding attorney, focused on obtaining justice for his clients in a wide array of personal injury cases including car, motorcycle, and pedestrian accidents; people injured on the job; cases involving premises liability; and victims of medical neglect. Beyond winning in the courtroom, he's dedicated to educating clients and serving his community.

"It is an understatement to say that we are proud of Loren's growth over his time with us," said Partner [John Feder](#). "He is consistently dedicated to excellence, justice, and compassion in everything he does."

[Learn More](#)

## What We're Reading & Listening To

Cynthia McGuinn: I just finished reading *Leadership in Turbulent Times* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. She provides the reader with a short course on what constitutes effective presidential leadership by examining the challenges faced by four presidents: Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson. Significantly, it shows how their choices made our country better and provides a moral compass for how presidents can successfully serve the country and its citizens going forward. Buy it [here](#).

John Feder: I've been listening to "Worst Club Ever (a child loss podcast)." Hosted by my daughter, Allie Kramer, a bereaved mom and licensed psychotherapist, this podcast provides understanding, resources, and community for families navigating the loss of a child. [Listen here](#).

Check out partner Cynthia McGuinn on the Miles Cooper podcast. Enjoy as they explore how a child of depression-era parents emerged from Ohio to become the force she is today. Listen on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), and [YouTube](#).

## Our Client's Story: When Business Profits Collide with Job Safety

Every day, thousands of trade professionals go to work on construction sites. They deserve to come home safe after a hard day of work.

Construction work is dangerous, ranking among the top industries for workplace injuries and fatalities.

For that reason, California law and industry standards require employers of trade professionals and the businesses that employ them to provide a safe worksite.

When they fail to do so, traumatic incidents resulting in serious lifelong injuries can occur and the worker lives with the consequences. This is what happened to our client. This is his story.

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The worker was only 28 years old and an inexperienced apprentice plumber, working for a plumbing company. While carrying a length of copper pipe, through a building being refurbished, he came in contact with an exterior live electrical line and suffered a severe electric shock causing devastating injuries. The outside electrical line had been largely obscured by a piece of plywood placed over the window opening by the general contractor. The worker had placed the pipe partially through an opening in the plywood in order to more easily seat the pipe in the ceiling hangers. The electrocution stopped the worker's heart and he had to be resuscitated at the scene. His right arm was severely burned requiring an amputation and his left arm was also burned causing severe injuries resulting in loss of use of his left hand. He has courageously endured many surgeries and faces many more surgeries in the future.

The General Contractor was well aware the electrical lines existed and should have known that placing plywood over the window opening, but leaving an access opening, would obscure the worker's ability to see the exterior line. A Safety Consultant hired by the General Contractor to evaluate the workplace also knew of these conditions but neither the Safety Consultant nor the General Contractor did anything to fix, warn, or guard against the dangerous condition. Instead, both companies focused on making sure that paperwork was filled out sufficiently to give the appearance of a viable safety plan, which was completely inaccurate.

We cited the case of *Peredia vs HR Mobile Services, Inc* (2018) 25 Cal.App5<sup>th</sup> 680 for the proposition that a Safety Consultant can be liable to the injured worker under a "negligent undertaking" claim when it fails to design and implement an adequate worker safety program.

Our client's life altering injuries were the predictable consequences of what happens when businesses ignore their safety obligations and instead focus on getting a job done quickly to maximize profits. Filling out paperwork implies that "safety matters" but ignoring dangerous worksite conditions and failing to provide a safe workplace is not acceptable.

After three years of hard work, with dozens of depositions, and the retention of many construction consultants and experts, RFTM partner John Feder, with the capable assistance of RFTM partner Cynthia McGuinn, successfully resolved this case in a confidential mediated settlement.

Today, our client is a husband and the proud father of a 16-month-old daughter.

RFTM is honored to have successfully served our client and his family.



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