



# The Coffee House

Spring 2011

Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association

**Wrongful Death Practice in Wyoming**

**Convention Coming Attractions**



**Change  
Ahead**

# VERDICTS AND SETTLEMENTS

rig's two-ton floor plates was rigged to a crane operated by Defendant Industrial Rigging. The Plaintiff's foot was injured when a two-ton floor plate suddenly moved and trapped the foot between the rotary table and the floor plate. Photographs taken immediately after the event showed that an end of the floor plate connected to the crane was suspended (and allegedly raised) by the crane. Plaintiff alleged and Industrial denied that Industrial's crane had unexpectedly and negligently raised the floor plate. Industrial alleged that the plate moved because it had been negligently placed by the Plaintiff's fellow employees.

**Injuries:** All of the toes of the Plaintiff's right foot were amputated.

**Medical bills:** Exceeded \$100,000

**Lost Wages:** Alleged future wage losses and other economic damages exceeded \$1,000,000

**Plaintiff's Attorneys:** James E. Gigax, Blum Murr & Accomazzo, PC; James E. Fitzgerald, The Fitzgerald Law Firm

**Defense Attorney:** Michael B. Rosenthal, Hathaway & Kunz, PC

**Plaintiff's Experts:** Crane expert: Steven Estrin, Sarasota, FL; Economist Ashley Ahrens, PhD, Lyons, CO; Vocational expert: Helen Woodard, Lakewood, CO

**Defendant's Experts:** Terry Brittenham, P.E./Petroleum Engineer, Oklahoma City, OK

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**Case:** *Allan Sampson v. Industrial Welding*

**Jurisdiction:** U.S District Court for District of Wyoming

**Judges:** Honorable Clarence Brimmer and Alan Johnson

**Case Number:** LLC, 08 CV 255

**Verdict/Settlement:** The case settled for a confidential amount.

**Facts:** Oil rig accident, Sublette County, WY. Rig was being "rigged down" (disassembled) to move it. One of the