

Electrician loses portion of finger, fractures hand in worksite mishap

\$300,000 settlement

The defendant general contractor hired a subcontractor to do electrical work at a Brockton construction site. The plaintiff electrician, an employee of the subcontractor, alleged he was instructed by the defendant to enter a building on the site to retrieve an extension cord.

However, instead of providing a key to the building, the general contractor arranged for the plaintiff to lift a heavy metal grate and descend a ladder approximately 12 feet into a pit that led to the basement of the building.

The plaintiff lifted the grate,

saw that the ladder was already set up, and began his descent. The ladder slid into the

concrete pit, and the metal grate closed on the plaintiff's hand, severing the top

of his middle finger.

Despite the partial amputation, he returned to work full time as an electrician.

The plaintiff alleged that the

general contractor negligently failed to maintain a reasonably safe worksite.



The general contractor contested liability, claiming the plaintiff entered the pit with-

out authorization in order to retrieve tools that he had left in the building.

The case settled for \$300,000 following mediation and a

lawsuit against the insurer for Chapter 93A/176D violations for failing to settle shortly after unsuccessful mediation.

Action: Negligence and tort

Injuries alleged: Severe injuries to left hand, including partial amputation of middle finger and multiple fractures

Case name: Withheld

Court/case no.: Withheld

Jury and/or judge: N/A (settled)

Amount: \$300,000

Date: July 2019

Attorney: Jeffrey N. Catalano of Todd & Weld, Boston (for the plaintiff)



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