



From Left: From Left: John Raders, Kathleen Grassini, Lawrence Grassini, Roland Wrinkle, Jamie Kurtz, and Lars Johnson

GRASSINI & WRINKLE

APPELLATE PRACTICE, PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION—PLAINTIFFS, PRODUCT LIABILITY LITIGATION—PLAINTIFFS, PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE LAW—PLAINTIFFS



THE ONLY TWO PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS FROM THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY selected by their peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2012, Larry Grassini and Roland Wrinkle have offered their respective one-two punch of trial and appellate work throughout 40 years of practice together. The firm's website biography really says it all. Entitled *Our History of Setting the Standards*, the page lists just a handful of the personal injury firm's successes, but they're pretty remarkable. The law firm of Grassini & Wrinkle can best be summed up by its firsts, including the largest personal injury award in the history of California, the largest personal injury award in the history of the United States, the largest punitive damage award affirmed on appeal, the largest sexual harassment award in California, the largest award for the death of an adult child. The list goes on—but the point is clear; the partnership between Larry Grassini and Roland Wrinkle has produced results for clients that are nothing short of amazing.

"WE'VE CERTAINLY HAD SOME GREAT SUCCESSES OVER THE YEARS, and that's because we have combined our distinct talents for the benefit of the clients we represent," says Grassini. "It's an unusual combination, where we have a trial attorney with an experienced and well-respected appellate lawyer."

LAWRENCE GRASSINI IS A MEMBER OF THE INNER CIRCLE OF ADVOCATES, an invitation-only group of the top 100 trial lawyers in the country, and this year he became only the third plaintiffs' lawyer to be inducted into the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel's Hall of Fame, and three years ago was the ninth person inducted into the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association's Hall of Fame. He is also one of only two trial lawyers to be twice named as that association's Trial Lawyer of the Year. He was listed in *Los Angeles Magazine* as one of the top 25 lawyers in the state and named as one of the 18 most respected plaintiffs' personal injury lawyers in *California Lawyer*, the official publication of the State Bar of California. In 2011, he was selected as *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year for personal injury litigation in Los Angeles.

ROLAND WRINKLE WAS VOTED APPELLATE LAWYER OF THE YEAR by the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles and was honored by his peers with the Ted Horn Memorial Award for the education of trial lawyers by the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHAT MOTIVATES THE PAIR THE MOST ISN'T RECOGNITION. "The best part of trying cases is knowing that we're able to change lives for the better," says Grassini. "Our clients and our cases allow us to force corporate America to make changes that protect and preserve a safer environment for consumers." Last year the firm represented a couple who lost their two daughters in a lengthy struggle against Enterprise Rent-A-Car, which rented the girls a car knowing it was subject to a safety recall. When that case went to trial and the jury rendered a \$15 million verdict, there was national press. The public's recognition of Enterprise's egregious acts led to the California legislature to enact the Raechel and Jacqueline Houck Safe Rental Car Act of 2011.

THE OTHER LAWYERS AT GRASSINI & WRINKLE ARE BUILDING CONSIDERABLE REPUTATIONS in their own rights. Katie Grassini and Lars Johnson won a seven-year battle that ultimately went to the California Supreme Court and changed the law to better protect victims of HIV. The decision, which then resulted in a \$12.5 million verdict at trial, allows innocent victims who contract HIV from a spouse or other to seek recovery if they are able to show that the defendant "should have known" that he or she might have been infected. Johnson then teamed with Jamie Kurtz to win a \$4.2 million battle against 20th Century Fox regarding the filming of *Flight of the Phoenix*. When an insurance company refused to deal fairly with a stockbroker, calling the plaintiff's demand "outrageous," John Raders tried the case and received an award double the insurer's offer.

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