

PR news

for smaller firms

Special Feature:

Media Darling

Lisa Lerner Miller, Esq.,
business development consultant,
shows how smaller firms can
raise their profiles with journalists

page 8

6 **The Seen:** Consumer Attorneys of
California

10 **Focus/Trend:** Direct Mail
Campaigns
Eric Miller

11 **In Practice:** Intellectual Property Law
Frank Santos

15 **Big Money:** Small Details Cause
Large Headaches
Timothy A. Lambirth
Joseph H. Catmull

20 **Downtime:** Staying Fit Despite
Stressful Practice Demands
Beatrice Ballance

B I T r a i l

DYNAMIC DUO

Sometimes, even the most powerful trial lawyers add another engine to the lineup to get the wheels rolling at top speed

by Staff Reports

Orange County's Bridgford, Knotterus & Gleason, where super litigator Richard K. Bridgford (below, left) is spearheading one of the April 23 Placentia train crash's wrongful death case, *Kube v. Burlington, Northern & Santa Fe Rwy and Metrolink*, (Los Angeles, filed May 15, 2002) has joined forces with Public (Entity) Enemy #1, Patrick McNicholas of Los Angeles' McNicholas & McNicholas to try the case.

"This collision was no accident," Bridgford, who has won two million-dollar and two half-million-dollar-plus verdicts in the past 24 months, says. "The defendants deliberately chose that extra dollar of profit over public safety."

McNicholas, who specializes in public transit and other public entity plaintiff-side litigation, predicts a green light from the jury on the claim.

"This case is about one thing and one thing only -- just compensation for the family," according to McNicholas. "BNSF and Metrolink could easily have avoided Mr. Kube's death. If they had abided by the basic rules of safety at the red signal for just a moment, Mr. Kube's wife and two kids wouldn't be without their husband and father for the rest of their lives."

Bridgford blames the overriding culture of the rail industry for the tragedy.

"The defendants have known for years about dangerously high freight traffic volume on commuter lines, crew fatigue and unemphed safety measures," Bridgford says. "And now my clients' father and husband has paid with his life."

No word yet on when the trial train will be pulling out of the station, McNicholas says.

"The NTS is still sorting through the wreckage on a siding near the accident site," he says. "The agency's report will detailing exactly what acts and omissions led to the tragic death of an innocent public transit passenger and family patriarch."



Richard K. Bridgford (left) of Orange County's Bridgford, Knotterus & Gleason and Patrick McNicholas of Los Angeles' McNicholas & McNicholas. The two litigators are spearheading one of the April 23, 2002 Placentia train crash's wrongful death case, *Kube v. Burlington, Northern & Santa Fe Rwy and Metrolink*.