



As Seen In... *Forbes*, July 2, 2007

Don't Measure Them Just by Their Impressive Track Record

The Attorneys of Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire

For almost three decades, Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire has had no trouble attracting the attention of the San Diego business community. While the firm's partners have racked up an impressive list of honors including *Best Lawyers in America*, the American Board of Trial Advocates' California Trial Lawyer of the Year and an astonishing 13 Outstanding Trial Lawyer Awards, they have built their reputation on representing the little guy.

Ten years ago, TBM's partners began broadening their client base by representing the big guy against the bigger guy and resolving disputes between the biggest guys in the business-to-business arena.

An impressive track record is one way to measure a firm, but Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire's appeal to businesses lies in its attorneys' ability to take risks that lower costs for business clients. TBM offers an alternative that most businessmen overlook. Its attorneys believe that if monetary relief is the goal, then it is a smart business decision to look at contingency fees as a way to transfer the risk when taking on a bigger opponent.



Co-Founding Partners Vincent J. Bartolotta, Jr. and Mickey McGuire

Today, with nearly \$200 million in verdicts and settlements for business clients, TBM's astonishing growth in business litigation and condemnation law has landed the firm clients like Kyocera, the Port Authority of San Diego, Foodmaker, Inc. and Border Business Park as well as a class action on behalf of California minors against the entire tobacco industry (a case now pending before the California Supreme Court).

"We're very much partial to the party that's been wronged," says Managing Partner Mickey McGuire. "Although this doesn't necessarily mean they're always the plaintiff. Nowadays, as lawsuits are being used offensively to gain a business advantage, the wronged party can easily be the defendant and cross-complaining party. We try to get our client to the courthouse first."

This is particularly true for TBM's eminent domain practice, managed by Vincent J. Bartolotta, Jr., who has over \$150 million in eminent domain verdicts.

Bartolotta sees a disturbing trend: local governments using eminent domain powers to seize and transfer private citizens' property to other private citizens.

"Eminent domain was created to benefit the public as a whole. So if the condemning agency is building a road, or a school, or something that's going to be used by the general public, then eminent domain has a very valuable place in our society," explains Bartolotta. "But now, with the ability of the government to come in and say, 'You, mister business owner, we're taking your property and giving it to this developer who wants to expand the lobby of his hotel,' and the only "greater good" is increased property taxes for the condemning agency, somehow I find that to be un-American, and that offends me. And so we're leading that charge."

Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire's business litigation department handles cases throughout California. In addition to condemnation and business litigation, the firm also prosecutes inverse condemnation, construction defects, fraud and catastrophic injury cases.

Vincent J. Bartolotta, Jr. Honors and Awards

- ABOTA, Past President
- 20+ years, *Best Lawyers in America*
- 2006 San Diego County Top Attorney Award
- 2006 Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award
- 2006 Daniel T. Broderick Award for Civility, Integrity and Professionalism
- 2002-2003 One of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in California
- 2003 ABOTA California Trial Lawyer of the Year
- 2001 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award
- 1991 Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award
- 1989 Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award
- 1988 Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award
- 1981 Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award

**Thorsnes
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McGuire**

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John F. "Mickey" McGuire Honors and Awards

- ABOTA, Board Member
- 20+ years, *Best Lawyers in America*
- 2006 San Diego County Top Attorney Award
- 1999 David E. Casey Award for Excellence in Trial Work
- 1983 Trial Lawyer of the Year
- 1982, 1983, 1990 Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award

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Fighting the Good Fight for Victims, Consumers

Attorney Crusades for Individual Justice, Meaningful Change

Catastrophic injury cases rank among the most complex, contentious and emotional cases known to the legal profession. Their impact can be far-reaching; in one second, a family's life can change forever. This is something veteran attorney Kevin F. Quinn understood and appreciated very early in his career.

Quinn, now a partner at the renowned San Diego-based law firm of Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire, recalls how deeply he was affected in 2004 by a case involving a Navy SEAL candidate. Joel Roberts was a young man with a huge future. A movie stuntman awaiting assignment by the Navy, Roberts suffered massive brain injury when he was run over by a careless boater while snorkeling off La Jolla, California. Quinn's \$6.7 million victory was recognized with an Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award.

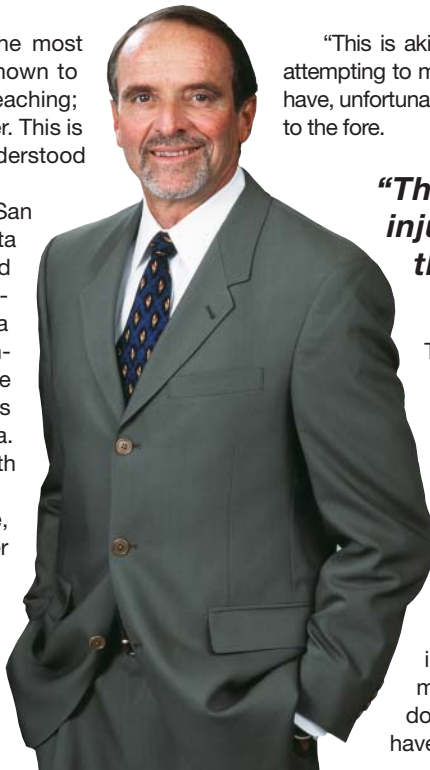
"Joel had it all – movie-star handsome, brave American," Quinn says. "It was all over in an instant."

After two decades in the courtroom, Quinn is still fighting the good fight. With a growing list of honors and numerous case referrals from other attorneys, he continues to successfully resolve catastrophic injury cases and secure important protections benefiting consumers at large.

"Some people are so badly damaged, it's worth the effort to try to implement some sort of change."

Much of the devastation Quinn has witnessed over the years is hard to contemplate. One of his current clients is an unfortunate soul who, after hearing what he thought was ice clinking in his insulated beverage cup, gulped down a large sip of iced tea. The man had, in fact, swallowed countless bits of shattered glass. Two years and numerous endoscopies later, the victim is still suffering from extensive damage to his esophagus.

"In this case, the manufacturer claims it was the victim's responsibility to pry off the lid and visually inspect his drink for broken glass. We don't agree. The cup's glass liner was hidden beneath a layer of plastic, so most consumers never knew it was there. Fortunately, the manufacturer has since revisited its designs. The latest version of the cup is transparent and, therefore, a much safer product.



"This is akin to social engineering," Quinn adds. "You're attempting to make a positive statement, helping people who have, unfortunately, suffered a great deal to bring such an issue to the fore.

"The broader effect of personal injury cases is that they make things better."

For Quinn and his team of attorneys at Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire, the scope and significance of personal injury cases extend well beyond damages recovered on behalf of individuals. Every tragedy, Quinn says, presents an opportunity to secure important consumer protections like product redesigns, warning labels and stronger safety measures.

"As consumer advocates, we are guided by a higher ideal. We go in with the intention of improving standards, tightening policies, getting faulty products off the market and, often, just getting government to do its job and protect the public. As a firm, we have been very successful in doing that."

Kevin F. Quinn Honors and Awards

- 2005 Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award, Consumer Attorneys of San Diego
- 2004 Admitted to the American Board of Trial Advocates
- 1999 Trial Lawyer of the Year, San Diego Trial Lawyers
- 1998 Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award, San Diego Trial Lawyers
- *Best Lawyers in America*

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