

\$20,000,000

## High Voltage Electrical Accident **GENERAL NEGLIGENCE**

**FACTS:** Paul William Jones (Jones) is a co-owner of High Voltage Technical Services, Inc. (HVTs). Cal Poly Pomona had a power outage on their campus. It was determined that the cause of the outage was insulators which had failed inside a high-voltage transformer station. Cal Poly Pomona hired HVTs to replace the insulators. An employee of HVTs and two electricians employed by Cal Poly Pomona de-energized the underground lines feeding the transformer station. Jones and two co-employees from HVTs were in the process of changing the insulators in the transformer station when Cal Poly Pomona received a call of a power outage located in a different part of the campus. In attempting to restore the power, an electrician employed by Cal Poly Pomona closed a high voltage switch causing the transformer station where the insulators were being replaced to suddenly become energized.

**CONTENTIONS:** Plaintiff claimed that the electricians employed by Cal Poly Pomona were responsible for de-energizing and locking out the transformer station where the insulators were being replaced. Plaintiff further claimed that it was standard practice that the electricians employed by Cal Poly Pomona were not to conduct any switching of electrical circuits while outside electricians were working on their electrical system. Defendant claimed that Plaintiff and his co-employees were negligent since they did not determine all possible circuits feeding the transformer station where the insulators were being replaced and confirm they had been properly de-energized and locked out. Defendant also claimed that HVTs did not ask Cal Poly Pomona for the electrical plans and/or circuit diagrams showing all sources which fed the transformer station where insulators were being replaced. Defendant also claimed that HVTs did not install "system grounds" on the transformer station and that had system grounds been in place, Plaintiff would have received a minimal electrical shock.

**INJURIES:** 57 year old electrician sustained third degree burns to approximately 25% of his body surface requiring complete amputation of his left arm.

**JONES v. CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, ET AL.**

**CASE NUMBER:** KC 051798 J

**LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT**