

Daily Journal

JUNE 20, 2018

TOP 40 UNDER 40

California's leading lawyers of 2018

Robert T. Simon

Simon was 34 when he secured a \$16.5 million jury verdict for his client in 2014 — the biggest of his career so far. His client was a Division One athlete who sustained neurological problems after he was rear-ended in an accident. The defense's offer was \$600,000, and Simon had already invested \$300,000 into the case. The award was solely based on past and future medical bills, and pain and suffering after Simon waived past and future lost earnings. In the end, the jury gave Simon everything he asked for in damages.

It was an emotional day in court as both Simon and his client wept during the reading of the verdict. Now Simon's client is using some of that money to open his own medical facility in which physicians will lease space to carry out their work. *Pickett v. Norian*, SC118893 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Oct. 30, 2012).

Today Simon's personal injury firm comprises of 19 attorneys, most of which are under the age of 40. His colleagues include his twin brother Brad and younger brother Brandon. Their father and mother also help out with the firm's logistics — making it very much a family affair. The firm operates in a decentralized manner. There are no partners or associate labels.

"I love doing what we do," said Simon, who likes hiring and guiding young trial lawyers.

Simon said he averages about five trials a year and has won all of them since 2011. They include a \$10.7 million verdict in Riverside federal court for a family injured in a tractor trailer accident, a \$7.2 million slip and fall award in a Van Nuys bench trial,



The Simon Law Group

Hermosa Beach

Practice: Personal injury

Age: 38

and \$6.8 million in a San Bernardino rear-end case. In the rear-end case, the defense said the surgery Simon's client underwent for injuries was a sham. The defense had to pay the verdict plus prejudgment interest and expert witness fees.

Simon, a Pennsylvania native, started the firm in 2009 with money he saved up.

Its home base is in Hermosa Beach, with offices in Santa Ana, Seal Beach, San Diego, Los Angeles and now San Jose. They try about 20 cases a year.

"I never thought I'd have a firm this big. I'll continue to grow it as long as it keeps working," said Simon.

— Justin Kloczko