

## Program 7: A Civil Case – Soup to Nuts through the Lens of a Personal Injury Case

Presented by: Litigation Section



**Michael E. Gatto**, Law Office of Michael E. Gatto

Michael is a former prosecutor who has tried over one hundred jury trials and over one hundred fifty bench trials. For the last 26 years, Michael has handled catastrophic personal injury and medical malpractice claims for plaintiff and defense. He now owns and operates the Law Office of Michael E. Gatto, PC, located in Walnut Creek, California. Michael specializes in cases involving complex legal and medical issues and continues to accept catastrophic injury cases on a referral basis.

Michael has handled matters involving medical malpractice, skilled nursing facility, product liability, premises liability, exceptions to Worker's Compensation, motor vehicle and trucking accident matters, general negligence and intentional torts. Michael uses his extensive knowledge of medicine to obtain favorable resolutions for his clients by effectively communicating complex medical issues to mediators, judges and when necessary, jurors. Michael received the largest medical malpractice verdict in the state in 2014, Cuevas v. Contra Costa County, a birth injury. This verdict remains the largest medical malpractice verdict in Contra Costa County history as well as the largest verdict against the county itself.

Michael is a member of CAOC, Western Trial Lawyers Association, and Alameda Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association (Past President 2018). Michael is admitted to practice in California and Arizona. Michael accepts cases throughout the entire state of California and Arizona. Michael also presently has cases in Washington state and Arizona.

Michael has authored numerous articles on trial practice and presentation of medical evidence. Michael regularly lectures for various trial lawyer organizations. Michael appeared as himself in This Giant Beast That Is the Global Economy, Episode 6, The Death Episode a documentary narrated by Kal Penn available on Amazon Prime.



**Benjamin Busfield, M.D.**

Dr. Busfield is board certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery (ABOS) and is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery (AAOS). Furthermore, he has been awarded the Certificate of Additional Qualification (CAQ) for Orthopedic Sports Medicine. This distinction, in conjunction with his Sports Medicine fellowship training, is held by very few local surgeons in the area. He specializes in Worker's Compensation injuries and treatment but has retired as a QME.

Throughout his training, he has had a special interest in caring for the injured athlete. During his Fellowship, Dr. Busfield assisted in the orthopedic care of Los Angeles professional sports teams including the Dodgers, Lakers, Ducks, Sparks, and Kings. In addition, he served as Loyola Marymount University and St. Mary's University collegiate team medical staff.