

# Jones, Clifford, Johnson, Dehner, Wong, Morrison, Sheppard & Bell, LLP

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### **CHANGES HAVE HAPPENED...**

The former Jones, Clifford, Johnson & Johnson, LLP has experienced a few changes! Former partner Kenneth G. Johnson, an attorney with the firm for over 20 years, retired at the end of 2009. Beginning with the new year, the firm welcomed **Steven J. Bell** as a partner. With this change, the firm has a new name: **Jones, Clifford, Johnson, Dehner, Wong, Morrison, Sheppard & Bell, LLP.** Although the name may have changed, our expertise has only grown stronger. The attorneys and staff continue to dedicate themselves to our clients through aggressive representation and genuine concern for their best interests.



Back row from left to right: Steven J. Bell, Christopher C. Dehner, Eric R. Gruber, Seth R. Merrick, Kenneth M. Sheppard, J. Kevin Morrison, Steger P. Johnson Front row: Alexander J. Wong, Melanie J. Carr, Francis V. Clifford

# BUT SOME THINGS STAY THE SAME...

Jones, Clifford is pleased to recognize one of the longtime employees of the firm. This year marks the 28th anniversary of Dorothy Shaw. Over her time here at the firm, she has been the case manager for a number of partners, including Yale Jones, Chris Dehner, and Alex Wong. Currently, Dorothy works with Alex and has been a contributor to the outcomes of successful cases while offering positive reassurance to clients throughout the lengthy legal process. As stated by police officer Michael Hallin, "She was extremely helpful and treated me with respect and seemed concerned about my needs."

#### **INTRODUCING...**

Jones, Clifford, Johnson, Dehner, Wong, Morrison, Sheppard & Bell, LLP would like to introduce the newest partner to the firm, Steven J. Bell.

Before attending law school,
Steve worked in the field of occupational safety and health as a private consultant and later as an in-house safety engineer for a manufacturer in the



Steven J. Bell

semiconductor industry. He then attended the Santa Clara University School of Law, graduating in 1986. He passed the California State Bar later that year and began his private practice representing individuals and families who had suffered harm due to the negligence of others.

While he handles a variety of cases, Steve's focus has been representing clients who have sustained injuries while on the job and from construction site accidents. In this regard, he draws on his prior experience in occupational safety and health and over 20 years litigating cases in many counties throughout California. Due to his wealth of experience in construction safety, he has also been asked to assist in cases in other states. Steve handles all aspects of these cases, which require knowledge of both the civil litigation and workers' compensation systems.



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Web site:
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The attorneys at Jones, Clifford, Johnson, Dehner, Wong, Morrison, Sheppard & Bell, LLP have been using their expertise in both personal injury cases and workers' compensation cases to represent law enforcement officers, firefighters, construction workers, tradesmen and individuals for over 40 years. We are one of the only law firms officially recommended by the California Association of Highway Patrolmen. If we can be of assistance, the attorneys at Jones, Clifford are available for a free consultation.

Small enough to treat your case personally, but big enough to represent your rights aggressively.

## **CONSTRUCTION SITE INJURIES**

Construction sites can be dangerous workplaces and are the location of many on-the-job injuries. Tens of thousands of construction workers are injured every year, and more than a thousand die in accidents involving contact with equipment, explosions, falls, fires, transportation and assaults at sites. These dangers are increased by the fact that there are usually multiple employers and trades working on any given site at the same time. Recognizing this, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has special rules governing these "multi-employer worksites," since any number of employers/people on the job site can create an unsafe work condition.

While workers' compensation is usually the sole remedy an injured worker has against his or her own employer, in many instances the injured worker can also pursue a civil lawsuit against others that were involved in the construction development. This is common in construction site injuries and must be properly evaluated by an attorney knowledgeable in these worksite rules. If you or someone you know has been injured on the job at a construction site, call our office to find out more about your rights. The consultation is free, and you will get the information you need to make an informed choice about how best to proceed.



### Statistics According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):

- One in ten construction site workers is injured annually.
- There are approximately 1,000 fatal injuries on construction job sites every year.
- The most likely age bracket of workers to be injured while on a construction job site is between 25 and 34 years of age.
- The majority of construction site injuries involve workers' backs and spines.
- Nearly 20 percent of construction site injuries are attributed to hazardous falls.