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*The Oldest Personal Injury Firm in Texas*

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*"Thank you for everything. You went above my expectations.  
I am 100% satisfied and am so very grateful."  
Heather - Former Client*

## For the Record

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## NEW ASSOCIATE JOINS ABRAHAM WATKINS

Abraham Watkins is proud to welcome Jonathan Sneed to the firm as an Associate. He joins us from a boutique Texas personal injury law firm where he worked with over 100 clients and gained substantial personal injury experience. Over the course of his legal career, Mr. Sneed has represented clients in a variety of personal injury and commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts. He devotes his practice to representing the victims of personal injury, wrongful death, catastrophic injury, car and trucking accidents, construction accidents, product defects, traumatic brain injuries, explosions, medical malpractice, and workplace injuries.



Mr. Sneed attended Texas A&M University and studied Construction Science, Business, and Spanish. He served as President of the Construction Science Honor's Society and was an active contributor to community housing projects in the area. Following college, he attended South Texas College of Law Houston where he was recognized as one of the top legal brief writers in the country and received the Third Best Brief in the Nation award by Scribes, The American Society of Legal Writing. He was also selected to serve on the school's Board of Advocacy for all three years of his law school career during which he was the recipient of the Best Oral Argument award and finalist in the Mack Kidd Administrative Law Moot Court Tournament.

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## MO AZIZ SECURES 95 SETTLEMENTS IN WEST EXPLOSION CASE



Abraham Watkins is proud to announce that Firm Partner Mo Aziz has secured settlements for all of his clients in the West, Texas explosion case, including six wrongful deaths, 75 personal injuries, and 14 cases of property damage. Mr. Aziz served on the four member Plaintiffs' Executive Steering Committee for the 2013 fertilizer plant explosion which resulted in 15 fatalities, over 200 injuries, and several hundred millions in property damage. The case

involved negligence and product liability claims against CF industries and El Dorado Chemical Company, two of the largest manufacturers of ammonium nitrate in the country.

## APPELLATE VICTORY FOR ABRAHAM WATKINS

Firm attorneys Benny Agosto, Jr. and Brian Humphrey obtained an important appellate win for Harris County in the First Court of Appeals in

*Harris County v. Harris County Appraisal District* The Harris County Appraisal District granted a property tax exemption to PRSI Trading, LLC, a subsidiary of Petrobras, under the federal Foreign Trade Zones Act. Harris County, represented by Mr. Agosto and Mr. Humphrey, challenged the exemption because Pasadena Refining System, Inc., PRSI Trading's sister



company and the owner of the refinery where its goods were located, was not the authorized operator of the Foreign Trade Subzone under federal regulations.

After HCAD's Appraisal Review Board and a Harris County District Court sided with PRSI Trading, the First Court of Appeals reversed the District Court in a 2-1 decision and rendered judgment in favor of Harris County that the exemption does not apply. This ruling means Harris County and other local taxing authorities will be able to recover millions of dollars in property tax revenue that was withheld because of the improper exemption.

For more information, the opinion can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/2s9bTuC>.

## **BENNY AGOSTO, JR. RECEIVES HUMANITARIAN AWARD FROM LATINO LEARNING CENTER**



In recognition of his support and compassionate commitment to the community, Firm Partner Benny Agosto, Jr. received the Humanitarian Award in the category of Male Philanthropist by the Latino Learning Center. Mr. Agosto received the Award at the Annual Humanitarian Awards Luncheon on June 15, 2017. Through the Humanitarian Award, the Latino Learning Center, a center that serves the community through adult education and services for the elderly and disabled, honors individuals in the arts, cultural, and entertainment industries for their work in promoting social, philanthropic, and humanitarian work. The Award recognizes leaders in the Houston community for their philanthropic work and community involvement.

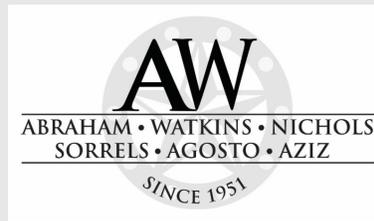
Mr. Agosto is consistently recognized for his contributions to both the Latino and legal community. He is the Founder and President of the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas Foundation and is the former President of the Hispanic National Bar Association. [Learn More](#)

## **SUIT FILED AFTER E-CIGARETTE EXPLODED, SEVERELY BURNING LEG OF U.S. NAVY VETERAN**

Firm Partner Randy Sorrels is representing Matthew Bonestele, a United States Navy veteran, who was severely burned after his e-cigarette battery unexpectedly exploded in his pant pocket. The product liability lawsuit was filed in Travis County against retailer Great Vapes, LLC., distributor Lightfire Group, LLC., and manufacturer LG Chem America, Inc. As more and more people have made the switch to electronic cigarettes as an alternative to smoking, battery explosions and injuries have been on the rise.



On April 21, 2016, Matthew Bonestele was carrying an LG Chem HG2 18650 battery in his right pant pocket, when it suddenly exploded, resulting in severe third degree burns to most of his right leg and a hole in his upper right thigh. Mr. Bonestele purchased the battery at Great Vapes, who had purchased the battery from Lightfire Group, LLC. [Learn More](#)



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