



And The Defense Wins

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After eight years of litigation, two appeals to the Alabama Supreme Court, and three jury trials in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Alabama (two of which ended in hung juries), DRI members [Allen Baker](#), [Teresa Minor](#) and [Sean Shirley](#) of **Balch & Bingham LLP** in Birmingham, Alabama, obtained a defense verdict for the defendant power company in a three-week jury trial in an electrical contact case.

The plaintiff, a city of Birmingham traffic worker, alleged that he was injured when he came in contact with an energized neutral line while upgrading the city's traffic lights and, as a result, he sustained third and fourth degree burns that required the amputation of his left arm and several fingers on his right hand. The defense demonstrated through physical and scientific evidence that the plaintiff contacted the energized primary line and that it was electrically impossible for the neutral line to have been energized.

After hearing the evidence, the jury returned the defense verdict in less than an hour. At all three trials, the plaintiffs asked the jury to award in excess of \$10 million. After the plaintiff's post-trial motions were denied, the plaintiff elected not to appeal the case.

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