

TEXAS REPORTER[®]

the premier comprehensive civil trial & settlement magazine in Texas

Volume 01, Issue 08 May 1 - May 15, 2001

Negligence -- \$7,600,000.00



JUDGE DAVID PEEPLES
224TH - 98-CI-00318
BEXAR COUNTY
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
DATE OF VERDICT: 5/30/01

Edward Sanchez, Individually, and on behalf of the Estate of Betty Jean Sanchez and Raul X. Villarreal as Guardian of Christine Lisa Sanchez

And

Fernando Cabello and Sylvia Estrada

vs.

Spaw-Glass, Inc., M & M Contracting of Texas, Inc., Austin Bridge & Road, Inc., and Mica Corporation

nolly, LLP from Austin, TX, By: Larry Black for Austin Bridge & Road, Inc.

TYPE OF CASE: Negligence - Betty Jean Sanchez, 42 years old, who was an employee of the University of Texas downtown campus, was on her way to work on the morning of January 7, 1999, when she stepped on a cast iron lid covering an electrical pull-box. Because of the manner of installation of the pull-box and the cast iron lid, the lid had come in contact with a 480-volt line energizing high mast lighting towers illuminating the elevated bridge of IH 35 South, causing the electrocution death of Betty Jean Sanchez. At the time of the incident in question, Ms. Sanchez had two children, ages 14 and 18. Plaintiffs sued City Public Service, Texas Department of Transportation, and contractors who were involved in construc-

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PLAINTIFF COUNSEL: Hall & Bates, LLP from San Antonio, TX, By: Tom Hall and Harry S. Bates for Edward Sanchez and Christine Sanchez; Law Offices of Luis R. Vera, Jr. & Associates, PC from San Antonio, TX, By: Luis R. Vera, Jr. and Lavonne Brittingham for Sylvia Estrada

DEFENDANT COUNSEL: Werstein & Associates from San Antonio, TX, By: Richard Werstein and Dan Diaz for Mica Corporation; Brock & Person, PC from San Antonio, TX, By: Ricardo R. Renya and George Tucker for Spaw-Glass, Inc.; Wright & Greenhill, PC from Austin, TX, By: Ross Pringle and Thomas J. Mitchell, III for M&M Contracting of Texas, Inc.; Black & Con-

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tion projects pertaining to the pull-box in question, including Mica Corporation, Austin Bridge & Road, Inc., Spaw-Glass, Inc., and M&M Contracting of Texas, Inc.

INJURY: Death by electrocution

PLAINTIFF EXPERTS:

- E. P. Hamilton - Electrical Engineer - Austin, TX - who testified live
- Dr. Vincent DiMaio - Pathologist - San Antonio, TX - who testified by video deposition
- Dr. JoAnn Murphey - Psychologist - San Antonio, TX - who testified live
- Dr. Everett Dillman - Economist - El Paso, TX - who testified live
- Bob Witter - Electrical Engineer - Albuquerque, NM - who testified by video deposition

AMT PRAYED FOR: \$25,000,000.00

VERDICT: Plaintiff verdict, \$7,600,000.00

NOTES: The jury found Mica Corporation to be 50% liable, M&M Contracting of Texas, Inc. to be 30% liable, CPS to be 15% liable, and TXDOT to be 5% liable, and Spaw-Glass, Inc. to be 0% liable.

