On February 1, 2016, a Humboldt County jury awarded $56,526,259 to Kyle Anderson, a 26 year old construction worker who suffered a severe brain injury and quadriplegia as a result of the negligence of Caltrans, the State of California. After a two and a half month jury trial, the jury found that Caltrans created a dangerous condition that caused Kyle Anderson's injuries. Trial attorney Russell Reiner from the law firm Reiner, Slaughter & McCartney represented Kyle Anderson.   
  
The jury also awarded Shannon Moore, a 42 year old construction worker, $2.7 million for medical expenses, wage loss, and PTSD from which he now suffers as a result of the negligence of Caltrans. Trial attorney Larry Moss represented Shannon Moore.  
  
In 2011, All Phase Excavating had a contract with Caltrans in Eureka, California, to perform work in the shoulder of Broadway/US 101 at night. For the safety of its employees, All Phase had requested a lane closure. However, just prior to the work shift, Caltrans negligently denied the lane closure. Because Caltrans denied the lane closure, All Phase attempted to do the work in the shoulder with the use of a barrier backhoe to protect the workers and the public. A Caltrans employee, unaware a backhoe could be used as a barrier vehicle, overstepped his authority and ordered the contractor to remove the backhoe from the shoulder. In addition, Caltrans ordered a work light tower be placed and adjusted in such a way as to cause a blinding glare to oncoming drivers. Due to the denial of the lane closure, removal of the backhoe, and adjustment of the work light tower, Caltrans created a dangerous condition.

Tragically, a vehicle whose driver was blinded by the light tower entered the shoulder of the road striking Kyle Anderson who was exposed as a result of the safety barrier backhoe being removed.

“Following this tragic event, Caltrans closed their file within seven hours, never held safety meetings for lessons learned, and no one from Caltrans was reprimanded for their actions,” says Mr. Reiner.

The family hopes that this verdict will help improve safety not just in Humboldt County, but throughout all of California.