

## **HDBD attorneys Aaron Burke and Perrin Fourmy win summary judgment for major oil exploration and production company**

Midland, Texas, April 2, 2015 (PRWEB) — HDBD attorneys Aaron Burke and Perrin Fourmy won a summary judgment for a major oil exploration and production company in a wrongful death lawsuit arising from an accident on an oil and gas drilling rig.

The plaintiffs represented the estate of a man who died in a drilling accident while working on a drilling rig, drilling for HDBD's client, the owner/operator of an oil and gas well in Midland County, Texas. The plaintiffs' decedent, an employee of a drilling contractor, was working as a rig hand when the drilling accident occurred. The rig, pipe, and equipment were all owned, operated, and maintained by the drilling contractor, and the only people on the rig at the time of the accident were the drilling contractor employees.

In addition to suing the drilling contractor, the plaintiffs sued the owner/operator for negligence and gross negligence. Plaintiffs sought to recover millions of dollars for their alleged damages. At the summary judgment hearing, Mr. Burke argued that plaintiffs failed to raise a genuine issue of material fact on crucial aspects of control and knowledge required under Texas law to hold an owner/operator liable for alleged injuries and damages to a contractor's employee.

The defense proved the owner/operator did not have anyone on site at the time, and therefore, did not control the specific methods used by the drilling contractor in rigging up the drilling rig at the time of the incident, and had no actual knowledge that the alleged dangerous condition would result in harm to the rig hands.



*Aaron Burke*



*Perrin Fourmy*

— more —

The court agreed, and granted the owner/operator's Motion for Summary Judgment, dismissing the case against the owner/operator two weeks before the case was to proceed to trial.

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SOURCE: Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer LLP

CAUSE/CASE NO: CV-49-277

COURT: District Court of Midland County, Texas, 385th Judicial District

JUDGE: Hon. Robin Darr

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