

Daily Journal

JULY 28, 2021



Nickerson made partner at Greene Broillet in January 2021 after starting as a law clerk at the plaintiff-side firm in 2010. He specializes in employment and business litigation plus catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death cases.

At first, he believed his career path would be different. “I came out here wanting to be a sports agent,” he said, “until I found out it was more hand-holding and babysitting instead of multimillion-dollar deals.” So Nickerson tried the legal world, winning awards for legal research and writing at Pepperdine University School of Law. “The school thought plaintiffs work would be a good fit and I interviewed with Greene Broillet and fell in love with the work we do here. I got really lucky.”

Last year Nickerson attained a \$1.2 million settlement for his clients after a state appellate panel reversed a trial court in the case of a man who slipped at the end of a seven-foot diameter Caltrans culvert under a highway in Mariposa County and fell to his death. The trial court had entered a defense verdict and awarded Caltrans more than \$300,000 in costs and fees; the reversal turned the case in favor of Nickerson’s clients, the parents of the decedent. *Broderick v. State of California*, F073710 (5th DCA, op. filed June 19, 2018).

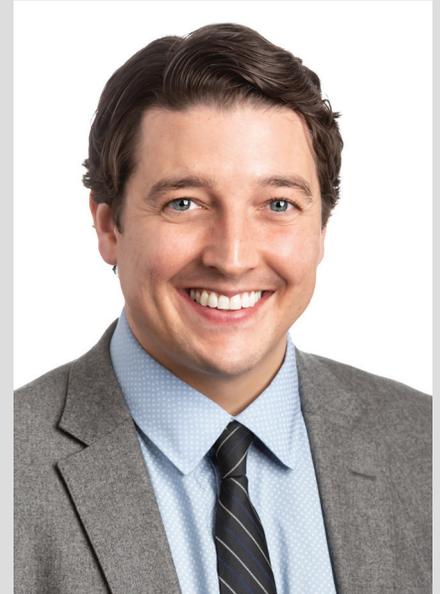
“We went up to Mariposa County and tried the case in what I believe is the

oldest courthouse in California,” Nickerson said. “We put on a great case, but the defense got a directed verdict.” The appellate panel said the trial judge erred in absolving Caltrans from liability for a dangerous condition of public property, abused his discretion in awarding fees and costs and erroneously excluded evidence. “It was a great outcome for parents who had lost their son.”

In another matter, Nickerson attained a \$1 million settlement for a young chef, Angelo Chambrone, who was on his moped heading home from work at a restaurant when he collided with a German tourist in a rental car, resulting in a traumatic brain injury. *Chambrone v. Knecht*, 19STCV05935 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Feb. 21, 2019).

“The case was passed over by other firms because the foreign tourist and rental car angles appeared to mean there was minimal insurance available,” Nickerson said. “We liked the client and his wife so much that we took the case. Mr. Chambrone tried to get back to his former level, but there was a significant loss of earning potential. After discovery it turned out—surprise—that there was a million-dollar policy, and we got him the money. His wife takes care of him to this day, and the outcome made an important impact on their lives. The last I heard, they were expecting a baby.”

— John Roemer



CHRISTIAN T.F. NICKERSON

GREENE BROILLET & WHEELER LLP

SANTA MONICA

PLAINTIFFS’ LITIGATION

AGE: 35