



The Voice

And The Defense Wins

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DRI member [Robert L. Blank](#), a partner in the Tampa office of **Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell**, and an associate obtained a favorable verdict in a negligence case styled *Rafael Ramos-Lopez v. SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment LLC d/b/a Busch Gardens* in Hillsborough County, Florida.

The plaintiff claimed he was injured when an actor struck him in the leg with a steel barrel while performing a scare at Howl-O-Scream at Busch Gardens. The defense denied the actor was negligent and denied the back and neck injuries claimed by the plaintiff were caused by the accident. The jury returned a verdict for plaintiff of \$276 (\$1 future pain and suffering, \$1 past pain and suffering and \$274 past medical bills), despite a two-level back surgery and \$130,274.46 in claimed medical expenses. SeaWorld has moved for its attorneys' fees pursuant to plaintiff's rejection of SeaWorld's \$10,000 proposal for settlement.

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