

# HONOREE: JIM BUTLER



**W**orksafe is proud to present this year's Frances Schreiber Pro Bono Award to Oakland attorney Jim Butler of Butler Viadro, LLC. Over the course of his career, Jim has been a tireless advocate of the underdog—representing countless injured workers and advancing worker justice through his leadership in the Bay Area legal community.

Jim's personal background informs his approach to law and enriches his commitment to justice. As an adolescent, he was severely injured in an accident by a driver who left the scene. This experience taught him the disabling impact of catastrophic injury and left him with a deep-rooted passion for helping people who have been seriously injured.

Jim began his legal career as a volunteer receptionist at the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County. He was soon hired and ascended the ranks to become a paralegal assisting clients with Social Security cases. During this period, he discovered that it was possible to use the power of spoken and written words to obtain food, housing, and medical care for indigent clients. Inspired by this experience, Jim decided to study law, and he obtained his Juris Doctor from University of San Francisco Law School in 1987.

In 2009, Jim became a founding partner at Butler Viadro, LLP. He represents clients in catastrophic personal injury cases arising from industrial accidents, dangerous premises, defective products, general negligence matters, and social security disability cases. He is also a Certified Specialist in Workers' Compensation since 1994. In 2007, the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association nominated him for its Trial Lawyer of the Year award.

Jim has also advanced the rights of injured workers through his service to the legal community. He is past president of the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association and has served as a member their Board of Directors since 1997. He has also served on their Community Involvement, Health Insurance Committee, and was past chair of their Third Party Work Place Injury. He has served as the Board President of the California Applicants Attorney Association and currently sits on their Board of Governors as well as on their Policy Steering Committee.

Thank you, Jim, for your tireless efforts on behalf of injured workers in California. Your dynamic leadership in the legal community and lifelong commitment to justice has done so much to advance the movement for worker health, safety, and dignity.

## **ABOUT THE FRANCES SCHREIBER PRO BONO AWARD**

Fran Schreiber has been a leading advocate for improving health and safety laws in California for over 30 years. She is of counsel at Kazan, McClain, Satterley and Greenwood. She is also one of the founders of Worksafe and has provided consistent leadership and assistance to the organization for more than three decades.

This special award is named in honor of Fran Schreiber for her extraordinary contribution of time and expertise to Worksafe's fight for safety, health, and justice for workers. Award recipients are those whose pro bono service has a major impact on Worksafe's ability to deliver the best advocacy, education, and assistance services possible in pursuit of our mission.