

# Brian Panish

*Panish, Shea & Boyle*

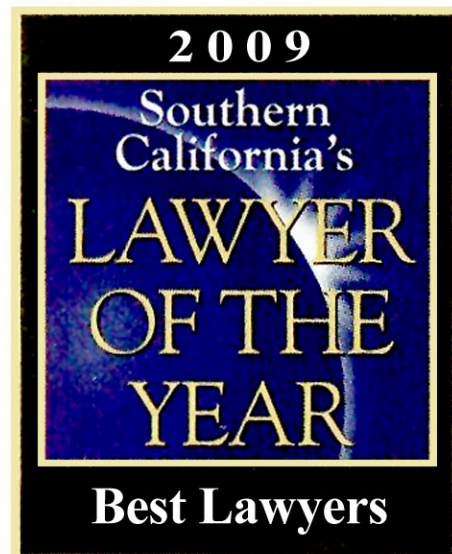
PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION  
*(LOS ANGELES)*

Of all the victories Brian Panish has earned throughout his distinguished career, the one that trumps all others is a verdict that still stands as the largest in the history of personal injury and product liability—\$4.9 billion.

The case against General Motors for its defective fuel system, which resulted in burn injuries to four children and two adults, made



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Panish a regular on the nightly news and propelled his career to new levels.

"There's never a day that goes by that someone doesn't ask me about that case," says the 50-year-old partner at Los Angeles's Panish, Shea & Boyle.

Panish certainly doesn't live in the past when it comes to his successes. He has obtained more than 100 verdicts and settlements of more than \$1 million, including 10 jury verdicts in excess of \$10 million. According to Panish, in the state of California there have been four verdicts exceeding \$50 million for personal injuries. Panish won three of those.

In the last three months alone, he's fought two trials—one resulting in a jury verdict of \$2.6 million for the wrongful death of a 40-year-old mentally retarded man; the other a \$15 million verdict for an adolescent boy that sustained a head injury.

In many instances, Panish has rejected lowball settlement offers and risked protracted courtroom battles for plaintiffs he thinks deserve greater justice.

"I see how [clients] deal with these situations of losing someone or having a catastrophic injury," says Panish. "It inspires me ... and makes me motivated to do everything I can for them."

# 2009 LAWYERS OF THE YEAR