

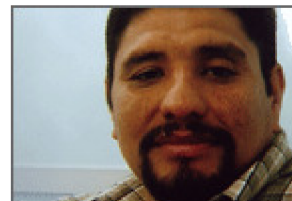
## PUBLIC JUSTICE E-LERT

AMERICA'S PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FIRM

February 17, 2011

The [Daily Journal](#), California's largest legal news provider, has just named *Castaneda v. State of California* one of the [ten most impactful verdicts in the state](#) for 2010.

Along with lead counsel [Conal Doyle](#) and co-counsel Tom Dempsey, [Public Justice Managing Attorney Adele Kimmel](#) and [Goldberg Attorney Amy Radon](#) have spent the last three years working on *Castaneda v. State of California*, the wrongful death case on behalf of the family of Francisco Castaneda.



Francisco Castaneda

Shortly after his release from state and federal detention, Mr. Castaneda, a prisoner and immigration detainee from El Salvador, died of untreated penile cancer. Both state and federal officials refused to give him a biopsy when he was in custody. As a result, Mr. Castaneda had to have his penis amputated, and the cancer later proved fatal.

The Castanedas' family suit against the State of California involved the state's failure to provide Mr. Castaneda with the immediate medical care it knew he needed during his four months in state custody. The family also has a lawsuit pending against the United States for failing to provide Mr. Castaneda the medical care he desperately needed during his eleven months in federal immigration detention.

As a result of both cases, Mr. Castaneda's tragic story was told in newspapers and on TV news programs all over the world. The *Daily Journal* writes that it is now "taught to health care and detention officials as an example of what not to do." In short, these cases are serving as a catalyst for reforming the medical care provided to detainees.

Thanks to the tireless work of a remarkable legal team, the publicity generated by this case has made the maltreatment of immigrant detainees a must-address issue for our state and federal governments. Congratulations to Conal, Tom, Adele and Amy.

Our case joins two other milestone rulings as part of the *Journal's* top ten: a decision that led to the federal repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell; and Prop 8, which reversed California's ban on gay marriage.

Congratulations must also go to members like you. Your loyalty and support empower us to continue to fight for the rights of all people.

Arthur Bryant

Executive Director

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