

Recent Train Derailment Eerily Similar To Palank Case Won By SDSBS

The latest train derailment tragedy which occurred on April 18 in Crescent City, Fla., underscores the need for people to look to the justice system to protect lives and ensure safety on the rails. In this most recent derailment, four people were killed and 100 were injured on an Amtrak train traveling on CSX rails.

On July 31, 1991, eight people were killed and 71 injured when a Miami-to-Washington Amtrak train derailed and smashed into nine freight trains. Paul Palank, a former Miami police officer, was one of the victims who was tragically killed. A National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation showed that a retaining pin was broken. Further investigation by attorneys Chris Searcy and Greg Barnhart on behalf of their client, Angel Palank, showed that CSX, which owned the rails, made substantial safety and maintenance force cutbacks, which resulted in the tragedy.

In 1995, \$6.1 million in compensatory damages was awarded to Mrs. Palank. On July 30, 1997, six jurors rendered the largest verdict for a single death in the amount of \$50 million in punitive damages. ■

