

One Crash, 3 Trucking Firms Found Liable in California Nuclear Verdict

RELATED PROFESSIONALS

[Richard Reibstein](#)

[Richard Reibstein](#), a partner with Troutman Pepper Locke’s Independent Contractor Misclassification + Compliance team, was quoted in the June 19, 2026 *FreightWaves* article, “[One Crash, 3 Trucking Firms Found Liable in California Nuclear Verdict.](#)”

“This is a cautionary tale for companies and independent owner operators and other contractors who transport freight,” Richard Reibstein, a partner with the law firm of Troutman Pepper Locke who specializes in independent contractor law, said of the California decision. Reibstein also writes a [blog on independent contractor issues](#).

Reibstein said cases such as the Perrigo verdict drive home the point that companies must “structure, document and implement your independent contractor relationships in a manner that complies with the law. Otherwise you may lose the benefits of being insulated from liability for the negligence of an independent contractor you retained.”

...

Reibstein said he “sees this time and again” with companies that don’t properly manage their independent contractor relationships.

His law firm offers a service called IC Diagnostics that is structured to determine whether a company’s various independent contractor relationships are in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Although the Castaneda case didn’t set a legal precedent, Reibstein said it should “reverberate in the C suite of companies who should ask their folks on the ground, what are we doing to make sure this doesn’t happen to us?”

RELATED INDUSTRIES + PRACTICES

- [Independent Contractor Misclassification + Compliance](#)