

## Because bad things happen to good people...

### Case won for man killed in power line incident.

Fred Soucie won a verdict for the family of a 36-year old husband and father, Gregory Hokkala, who was killed back in 1996 in a power line incident. The case was tried in Anoka County District Court and the jury returned a verdict of \$2.159 million for Greg's family.

Greg was electrocuted when the driver of a dump truck lifted the truck box into an overhead power line, and Greg, who was on the ground, came in contact with the truck while it was electrified. The defendant dump truck driver immediately blamed Greg for his own death.

"We just knew that wasn't true," said Fred Soucie. "Greg was well known as a very safety conscious person and the dump truck driver's story just didn't seem to square with the facts of the case. I never believed the dump truck driver."

Greg's wife, Vicki, knew her husband was too careful and respectful of electricity to have done what the dump truck driver claimed so she sought legal help. She contacted Attorney Miles Lord, who knew about Fred Soucie's reputation with power companies and cases involving power line deaths and injuries, and who directed her to work with Fred.

"Fred was wonderful," said Vicki. "He became a part of our family and got to know us really well. We were told from the beginning that it was a tough case, but Fred helped us through it all."

Reconstructing the scene is one of the most crucial aspects of a personal injury or death case. Using a group of expert witnesses, the team at Soucie & Bolt put together the details of the accident. While the truck driver maintained Greg was holding onto the truck with his right hand after supposedly

giving directions, the medical experts showed that the current entered Greg's body at his left thumb tip. Electrical experts studied the burn marks from the current running through the truck and into the driveway.

"Because we have worked on big power line cases in the past, we knew many expert witnesses who did an excellent job of revealing the truth behind the tragic death of this fine, fine young father and husband," Fred stated.

"Fred put the whole case together and found out the truth about how Greg died. The jury believed us and we won the case," Vicki said. She concluded by hoping no one ever has to go through what her family did. "But if any family does, no doubt I would recommend talking to Fred Soucie."

Fred was helped through each important stage of preparation by his fellow attorney, Christopher Hoffer. "There is no way we could have succeeded in this trial without Hoff's insight and invaluable, tireless work."

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### FIRM CHANGES

*You may have noticed that our firm name has changed to Soucie & Bolt. After 13 years with the firm, John Buchman has left. We wish John and his family all the best that life can bring.*

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## need a good lawyer?

As always, when you or your friends and family members have been involved in an accident or experienced a tragedy, we will be glad to help.

But even if your problem is not personal injury, we can help. As members of the Minnesota State Bar Association and many other legal organizations, we know some excellent attorneys. If you have any legal need, give us a call at **763 427 8888**. We will be glad to help you find the right person for any legal problem.

# Soucie & Bolt in the News

*You don't have to go downtown to get top legal talent.*

**Our attorneys win awards and honors that only a select few in the state achieve. For example:**

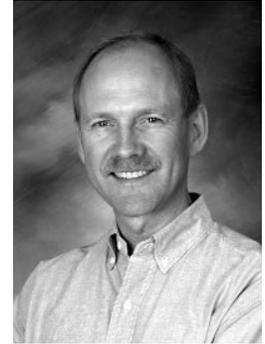
- Fred Soucie was recently inducted into the Founders Society of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association. Fred is one of only eight attorneys ever inducted into the Founders Society. This honor recognizes Fred's longstanding contributions and outstanding services to injured victims and their families. Fred was nominated by the Board of Governors of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association to merit this distinction. He was elected to the Founders Society, however, by the general membership of the Trial Lawyers.

Fred was awarded this recognition at the annual convention awards dinner held at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria in August, 2002.

- Both Fred Soucie and Dave Bolt were again named Super Lawyers™ as a result of a statewide survey of attorneys in *Minnesota Law & Politics* and *Twin Cities Business Monthly* magazines. Fred has been named a Super Lawyer™ every year since 1994 and Dave has been one every year since 1997.



**FRED M. SOUCIE**  
*Attorney at Law*



**DAVID M. BOLT**  
*Attorney at Law*

- Dave Bolt was selected as one of Minnesota's Top 25 Personal Injury Lawyers in *Minnesota Law & Politics* magazine and *Twin Cities Business Monthly*.
- Fred Soucie was selected a Top 40 Personal Injury Lawyer™ and in the Top 100 Lawyers™ overall by *Minnesota Law & Politics* and *Twin Cities Business Monthly* magazines.