



Deng v. SOMO Partners et al.  
Confidential Settlement

On April 6, 2008, Mel Dang was working at an industrial press machine in Kansas City, Missouri when his life changed forever. While doing the required cleaning of the machine Mel grabbed a falling cleaning towel and his arm was instantly pulled between the huge metal rollers of the press machine. A co-worker nearly was able to shut off the machine, but not before Mel's arm was taken into the machine nearly up to Mel's shoulder. With no way to free his arm, EMT personnel were forced to remove Mel's arm at the machine.

Having immigrated to the United States several years before the accident as one of the Sudan "lost boys," Mel had become a leader within the local Sudanese community. After facing such a devastating emotional and physical injury, it was feared that Mel would be confined to the worker's compensation system, which would have fallen well short of his needs.

The Accurso Law Firm worked to establish the machine was not owned by Mel's employer, that the machine was a "fixture" under the law and that Mel was eligible to seek relief in a lawsuit for personal injury. Most importantly, the press did not have the basic guard in place that would have prevented Mel's accident, a guard that would have cost less than \$100 to install. The end result was a confidential settlement that will enable Mel and his family to move forward with the peace of mind that they were represented by a law firm that worked to maximize every aspect of the law of their behalf.