

Joel B. Castro – Castro Associates

BACKGROUND

- Joel's firm was founded in 1976, and is renowned for its comprehensive, "failure analysis" and "hands on" testing of damaged and collapsed sites throughout California.
- Joel continuously receives the national **AV Preeminent rating**
- This signifies the highest ratings by his peers and the judiciary
- Simply stated, Joel has reached the highest level of professional excellence for his legal knowledge, communication skills and highest ethical standards.
- Joel has been voted *Outstanding Construction Attorney* by the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

SEISMIC INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE

- Joel has led the way in helping earthquake victims resolve damage and injury claims to get their lives back together.
- He has won landmark court cases for victims in some of California's most notorious earthquake disasters, including multi-million dollar recoveries for residents of the collapsed Northridge Meadows apartments buildings that killed 16 during the 1994, Northridge Earthquake
- In 2010, the San Simeon Earthquake cases, *Myrick v Mastagni*, were reported nationally, affirmed by the California Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court, holding that
- building owners will be held liable if they fail to repair hazardous URM and soft story properties. The rationale of the Myrick case can be applied to any hazardous building condition.
- "The *Myrick* case has set important public policy that will save lives," says Castro.
- "We cannot predict earthquakes, But we can prevent excessive property losses and minimize injuries and fatalities."
- Joel is frequently quoted as a seismic / legal resource by National Geographic, the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Daily Journal.

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- and winning the first California earthquake jury trial against building owners of an unreinforced masonry structure, URM, after two women were killed during the 2003, San Simeon Earthquake.
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- “Our efforts to bridge law and science are noteworthy.”

In 2016, Joel Castro was a seminar speaker and author at the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, *Using Legal Action to Improve Earthquake Safety*. He has also lectured on earthquake preparedness, performance based engineering, and housing stock impact from damaged earthquake buildings. He received the first annual Justice Advocacy Award in 2012, for his litigation of the San Simeon Earthquake deaths, and

The firm’s unique expertise combines science and law with construction as the main course. Castro & Associates is a boutique trial attorney firm experienced for almost 4 decades in litigating complex multi-party construction damage cases including; seismic failures, structural collapses, steel moment frame high-rise projects, soils, grading and landfill compaction failures, concrete failures, unreinforced masonry, soft story structures and systemic water intrusion.

The firm has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for its clients in successful construction litigation. The firm has won landmark legal cases for victims in some of California’s most notorious earthquake disasters, including multi-million dollar recoveries for residents of the collapsed Northridge Meadows apartments that killed 16 during the 1994, Northridge Earthquake, and winning the first California earthquake jury trial against building owners of an unreinforced masonry structure, URM, after two women were killed during the 2003, San Simeon Earthquake. This case (*Myrick v Mastagni*) was reported nationally, affirmed by the California Supreme Court, and holds that building owners will be held liable if they fail to repair hazardous URM and soft story properties. “The *Myrick* case set important public policy that will save lives,” says Castro. “We are very proud of that.” We are at the intersection where fields collide and science bridges law,” says Castro. “We cannot predict earthquakes, But we can prevent excessive property losses and minimize injuries and fatalities.”

Transition Phrase If Needed:
“Where Law Bridges Science”