

The Ammons Law Firm



Our firm is a nationally recognized personal injury firm that is dedicated to protecting and vindicating the rights of people injured or killed through the negligence of others. We are trial lawyers who understand that our clients want to be represented by a law firm that has the commitment and resources to handle complex and challenging cases. We represent clients in courtrooms throughout Texas

and across the nation, often with unprecedented results.

We believe that corporate wrongdoers should be held accountable. We have the skill, commitment and financial resources necessary to battle large corporations in the fight for justice. We are highly respected, aggressive advocates who are committed to winning. With a well-established record of success, our attorneys are recognized throughout the country for winning multi-million dollar judgments. The Ammons Law Firm has the distinction of the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory's highest ranking of "AV". The "AV" rating is a reflection of our legal experience, integrity, expertise, professional conduct and overall professional excellence.

Robert E. Ammons, Founder of The Ammons Law Firm

"It has been a pleasure working with your office. There is no question you guys know what you're doing in these automobile products liability cases."

M. McNamara,
Arizona Attorney

"Thank you for your competent, professional assistance and guidance in getting this matter resolved quickly."

M. Queenan,
Texas Attorney



"Rob Ammons is the best lawyer anybody can hire. My life has been forever changed due to the recovery Rob obtained for me and I am grateful."

D. Parks,
former client

"Thanks for doing such a good job on (our) client's case. I'm appreciative and I'm sure her family is."

H. Arthur,
Texas Attorney

"My brother and I want to thank you and your staff for the superb job that your firm did on my uncle's case! We appreciate the professionalism and personal involvement of you and your staff."
The Ratliffs, former clients

"In over 30 years of working with lawyers on oil field liability cases, I have never seen anything as impressive as Rob Ammons' voir dire of the jury panel in the Garcia case."

R. Bussee, P.E.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for referring my case to Mr. Rob Ammons. Mr. Ammons and his staff handled my case with such professionalism . . . My accident left me with a spinal cord injury and I felt so lost but I was soon confident that Mr. Ammons' office would help me."

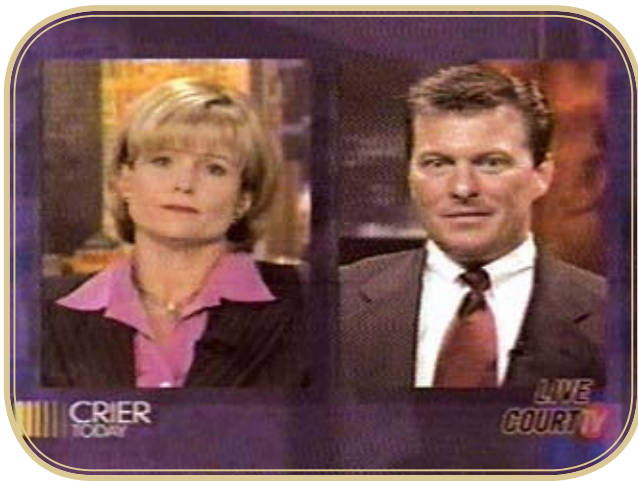
L. Cabrera-Perry, former client

Robert E. Ammons

Robert E. Ammons has earned a reputation as one of the leading personal injury trial lawyers in the nation: Mr. Ammons is dedicated to achieving the results that his clients have come to expect. He has significant experience in handling personal injury litigation involving defective products and corporate malfeasance. Rob Ammons specializes in representing consumers in the prosecution of wrongful death and serious injury cases, such as spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, and burns. Mr. Ammons concentrates his law practice on product liability litigation, including vehicle rollovers, tire defects, post-collision fires and seat belt defects. Rob has a proven record of winning significant verdicts and settlements against some of the largest corporations in the world. In the last ten years, Rob has been lead counsel in over two hundred separate cases in which a verdict or settlement in excess of \$1,000,000 was obtained. Rob Ammons' commitment to successful advocacy and loyalty to his clients is paramount throughout The Ammons Law Firm where everyone is dedicated to achieving justice for each client.

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- *Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 1985*
 - *Baylor University Law School, Waco, Texas, 1988*
Editor of Law Review
 - *Texas Supreme Court Briefing Attorney, 1988*
 - *Individually Rated "AV" by the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory*
 - *Board Certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by National Board of Trial Advocacy*
 - *Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Certification*
 - *American Board of Trial Advocates, Associate Member*
 - *Texas Super Lawyer of the Year (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008)*
by Texas Monthly Magazine





FORT WORTH

Star-Telegram

WWW.STAR-TELEGRAM.COM

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

'Where The West Begins' SW

SCHNURMAN

Continued from 1C

Besides, the safety belt wasn't broken; it failed because Garcia didn't use it properly. Garcia had connected a rope line to a small ring on the belt rather than the large "D" ring, and the small ring broke under the strain.

"We don't think we're liable in this situation," said Hugh Simpson, Cash America's general counsel. "We don't think we did anything wrong."

Garcia's attorney, Rob Ammons of Houston, said, "There are some things they shouldn't be selling — like used safety equipment without the instructions. Let's draw the line somewhere."

The settlement amount is confidential, but Ammons said that Garcia is "set for life" financially.

Garcia also sued the belt-maker, BuckleUp Manufacturing Co., and they settled a week before the Cash America trial. That amount is confidential, too, but Simpson said BuckleUp paid out more than Cash America.

It's unusual that the Cash America case was settled that far into the trial. Both sides had already invested time and money as if it would have been natural to see it through to a verdict.

But Cash America was discouraged by a ruling in the case. The judge agreed to exclude the language on the belt's sales receipt, which said the item was sold "as is, without warranty of fitness for a particular purpose."

Ammons argued that Cash America wasn't being sued over its warranty. The suit alleged that Cash America was negligent in selling a defective product.

The judge sided with the plaintiff, and Cash America saw that as a turning point.

"It goes to the state of mind of the buyer," Simpson said. "That's tantamount to a warning that we're not making any representations to the buyer."

Cash America balked with its insurance company, and they agreed to settle. Cash America doesn't have to disclose the amount, because it's covered by insurance.

Some would probably criticize this case for taking advantage of a sympathetic victim and a corporation with deep pockets. They'd say the worker's employer was responsible for the accident, not a retailer.

After all, the employer bought the secondhand belt and never trained Garcia how to properly use it. But the employer didn't have much money.

Others might cast a harsh eye toward Cash America. They would say it not only takes advantage of people who can't borrow money elsewhere; it also has flawed merchandise in them, overlooking the fact that the orange warning labels had been removed from the belt and the belt had been altered.

Daniel Shauman, a law professor at Southern Methodist University, said there is a history of successful product liability cases against retailers. The law evolved, in part, because injured consumers needed someone to turn to if manufacturers had gone out of business.

He said the case won't set a precedent, because it was settled confidentially without an acknowledgment that the company did anything wrong.

But he said such suits have two objectives: to compensate the injured plaintiff and to serve as a deterrent in the future.

So far, Cash America isn't changing its policies, although it's been reviewing its approach with the insurer, Simpson said.

The company has nearly 500 pawnshops, which sell through thousands of items a year. They turn over their inventory about three times annually and make most of their money by selling pawned merchandise.

Ammons suggested that Cash America develop a checklist before making a loan on an item and later putting it on the shelves. The retailer could even check with the manufacturer to make sure that the package is complete.

Simpson says that's not practical. The safety belt was sold for \$150, and many items sell for much less. Calling about safety instructions and warning labels would eat up too much profit.

In testimony, a Cash America store manager said that he would have spent five to 60 seconds examining the belt before accepting it and setting a pawn amount.

Maybe that's enough time for a stereo or a wedding band. But a piece of safety equipment warrants a more thorough exam.

Cash America must have figured the jury might see it that way, too.

Rob Ammons' e-mail address: ammons@star-telegram.com

THE MONITOR

Serving the Rio Grande Valley Since 1909

JUNE 22, 2004

50 CENTS DAILY \$1.25 SUNDAY

Tuesday, June 22, 2004 THE MONITOR, McAllen, Texas

Injured oil field worker awarded millions

He (Rob Ammons) said money would help Raul Garcia support his family.

RIO GRANDE CITY - A Starr County jury awarded an Edinburg man more than \$3.4 million for injuries suffered in an oil field accident.



Houston Chronicle

Section A, Page 21 ***
Wednesday, April 17, 1996

METROPOLITAN

Local & State

Jury awards

A jury found Harris County liable Plaintiffs' attorney Robert Ammons, who said the county had rejected a settlement offer.

November 2000 \$7.50

TRIAL

Journal of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America

s liability:
ng hidden dangers

TEXAS BLUE SHEET

Reporting Verdicts & Settlements Since 1966

Vol. 1 Issue 18

Construction Accident

Bus Driver Hit By Load of Rebar Settles for \$2.9M

Mishap Occured While Offloading From Tractor-Trailer Via Tower Crane

BY GARY HARDIN

A woman seriously injured when a load of rebar fell on the airport shuttle bus she was driving two years ago reached a settlement on a construction

trailer by a tower crane. The offloading was for construction of the A/B Terminal parking garage at Bush Intercontinental Airport, a project awarded to

ing the radioed directions of Richard's Rebar and The Contractor's Advantage employees.

The Firestone tire recall and its surrounding events should bolster product claims involving tread separation. The authors describe the recall, explain the tire-manufacturing process, and discuss aspects of litigating a case.

Tires that kill

Robert E. Ammons

Products Liability

LAW REPORTER

Volume 21, Number 1 February 2002

Sport-utility vehicle: Occupant restraint: Inertial unlatching of seat belt: Ejection: Closed head injury: Settlements

During mediation, plaintiff settled with the insurance company for \$980,000. Before trial, plaintiff settled with the SUV driver for \$175,000.

During trial, plaintiff settled with the SUV manufacturer. The amount of the settlement is confidential.

Plaintiff's Counsel
* Robert E. Ammons, Houston, Tex.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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VOL. CCXXXVI NO. 91 CE/BE *** WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2000 WSI.com ***** 75 CENTS

Firestone Tire Cases

they see as indications that both Firestone and Ford may have been indifferent to warning signals that the tires had problems. Now, "that threat has been eviscerated," says Robert Ammons, a Houston lawyer. Mr. Ammons represents about a dozen people in tire-related suits but has also turned

With the law pegging punitive awards to lost earnings, Mr. Ammons adds, poorer plaintiffs especially may suffer, including a \$6-an-hour pipe-fitter helper he represents with spinal-cord injuries sustained

In The News

Our lawyers at The Ammons Law Firm and our high-profile cases often catch the attention of national, regional, and local media. Rob Ammons and the cases he and his firm have handled for his clients have been featured on national newscasts, including *Court TV*, CBS's *The Early Show* and *48-Hours*. Our attorneys, as well as the verdicts and settlements obtained for our clients, have made headlines in numerous national and local publications. The media attention our lawyers receive on the cases we handle is a direct result of our success in obtaining positive results for our clients.



Texas
Super
Lawyers

6/13/2004

Robert E. Ammons
Stevenson & Ammons
3700 Montrace Blvd
Houston, TX 77006-4690

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

Congratulations! You have been named a Texas Super Lawyer for 2004.

More than 90,000 ballots were mailed. More than 43,000 votes have been counted. Our 535-member Blue Ribbon Panel reviewed the list, and our selection committee has made its final cuts.

NEWS FROM THE METROPLEX AND TEXAS

Fort Worth

Tuesday
November 2, 2004

SAFETY
For tires,
age is
always
a factor

"A number of scientific studies show that tires 6 to 10 years old are failing about eight times more often than the same tires 2 years old, regardless of tread wear," said Houston lawyer Rob Ammons. Ammons is lobbying for a federal law to require more frequent tire inspections.

More on TIRES on 6B

November 2002

TRIAL

Journal of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America

Products liability

NOVEMBER 2000 \$7.50

TRIAL

Journal of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America

Products liability: Unmasking hidden dangers

Law Reporter

Volume 43, Number 1 April 2002

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS

Pedestrian struck in crosswalk: Improper lookout: Respondent superior liability: Partial paralysis: Jaw fracture: Settlement.

Escalante v. Johnson, Tex., Harris County 295th Jud. Dist. Ct., No. 2000-62356, Dec. 17, 2001.

Escalante, 74, was crossing at a crosswalk when he was struck by a truck and dragged along the ground. He suffered partial paralysis and a jaw fracture. His past medical expenses total about \$176,500, and his future care costs are estimated at \$500,000. He is retired.

Escalante and his wife sued the driver, alleging he was negligent in failing to keep a proper lookout. Plaintiffs also sued the driver's employer, alleging it was liable under a respondent superior theory of liability.

The parties settled at mediation for \$2.5 million, including \$1 million to Escalante's wife for loss of consortium. The settlement was paid entirely by the employer.

Plaintiff's experts were Thomas M. Grubbs, accident reconstruction, Houston, Tex.; Robert B. Haberman, rehabilitation, Sarasota, Fla.; and Whitney Morgan and Paul Dillard, trucking and safety, both of Birmingham, Ala.

Defendants' experts were Joe Horton, accident reconstruction; Glen Honeycutt, safety; and Raymond Martin, neurology, all of Houston, Tex.; and Justice K. Gould, life care planning, Bradenton, Fla.

Plaintiff's Counsel
* Robert E. Ammons, Houston, Tex.

Law Reporter

Volume 44, Number 10 December 2001

Rebar being off-loaded by crane strikes bus: Failure to stop traffic near construction work: Fractured ribs: Ruptured spleen: Settlement:

The parties settled the case after plaintiffs' voir dire for \$2.9 million. Of that amount \$1.9 million was paid by the general contractor, and \$500,000 each was paid by the two subcontractors.

Plaintiff's Counsel
* Robert E. Ammons, Houston, Tex.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BEAUMONT, TEXAS

SOELE'S TRIAL REPORT™

TEXAS REPORTER®

Weeks of November 13th, 20th & 27th, 1995

LAWYERS:
from Houston, Texas, By: Robert E. Ammons

The risky ride of the 15-passenger van

Robert E. Ammons

More than half a million 15-passenger vans travel the nation's roadways today. The vans are used primarily to transport youth church groups, day-care children, high school and college athletes, and other groups. Over the past few years, hundreds of people have been killed or seriously injured in accidents involving these vans.

Automakers' internal documents show that they wanted to get high-capacity vans to market quickly and cheaply. To do so, they dismissed safer alternative designs.

Law Reporter

Volume 35, Number 1 February 1996

Jones Act: Worker lifts fuel drum: Inadequate equipment, crew, training: Unseaworthiness: Protruding disks: Verdict.

Hinton v. Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co., Tex., Harris County 295th Jud. Dist. Ct., No. 95-10000, Dec. 17, 1995.

TRIAL • Products Liability • November 2002

Representing the 'forgotten child'

Robert E. Ammons

Safety experts and auto manufacturers have long known that a lack of child-proof car seats for children between the ages of four and eight. Most children at this age do not have regular child safety seats. Yet they are the most likely to be injured in crashes by their parents. Experts say that children who are not in child seats are at a much higher risk of injury in crashes. Youngsters who fall into this safety gap need careful advocacy.



Specialty Practice Areas

The Ammons Law Firm is a trial firm devoted exclusively to the representation of individuals who have been catastrophically injured or killed by the negligence of others. Our attorneys and staff are hand picked for their exceptional problem-solving skills and proven track records. Our lawyers work together in teams and are supported by paralegals, investigators, medical doctors, nurses, engineers, economists, law clerks, legal secretaries, accountants and bilingual translators. While we represent clients in many different types of cases, our firm has specific areas of litigation expertise that include vehicle rollovers, tire defects, post-collision fires, seat belt defects, trucking accidents and workplace negligence. Our attorneys have prevailed in cases against national and international corporations including General Motors, Ford, Daimler/Chrysler, Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Nissan, Hyundai, Bridgestone/Firestone, Titan Tire Corporation, Michelin North America, Cooper Tire, Kumho Tire, Takata, Exxon, Phillips 66, Diamond Offshore, Cash America Pawn, Manhattan Construction, Anthony Crane Rental, Yellow Freight and BP Amoco.

All of the photographs identifying our practice areas are from the cases we have handled for our clients.

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- *Vehicle Rollovers*
 - *Tire Defects*
 - *Post-Collision Fires*
 - *Seat Belt Defects*
 - *Trucking Accidents*
 - *Workplace Negligence*



Corn vs. Isuzu

Vehicle Rollovers/Roof Crush

Sport utility vehicles (SUVs) have taken over America's highways. Due to the high profit margins derived from SUV sales, the auto manufacturers have aggressively marketed SUVs as more rugged, versatile and safer than ordinary cars. In reality, people driving or riding in SUVs are more likely to die in an accident than people in cars. The main reason for the safety gap in SUV and car fatalities is that SUVs are more likely to flip or roll over, causing severe injury and/or death. When a rollover occurs the occupants face additional dangers from weak roof supports that crush or collapse, seat belts that fail to provide proper restraint, and window glass that breaks and permits partial or full ejection. The attorneys at The Ammons Law Firm have successfully handled hundreds of cases involving defects that cause rollover accidents, as well as cases involving defects that produce or enhance injuries in rollovers. The rollover and roof crush cases we have handled for our clients have involved Ford Explorers, Chevrolet Suburbans, Toyota 4-Runners, Mitsubishi Monteros, Ford Expeditions, Isuzu Troopers, Jeep Grand Cherokees, Ford Rangers, and fifteen-passenger vans.



Jackson vs. Firestone

Tire Defects

Tire defects are responsible for numerous injuries and deaths, primarily from tread separations and blow-outs. Many of these accidents are caused by design or manufacturing defects in the tires. When a steel-belted radial tire loses its tread at highway speeds, the result is frequently a loss of control and vehicle rollover. The rollover problem is exacerbated by the high-center-of-gravity vehicle designs which are found in many popular SUVs. Our firm has a considerable background in tire litigation and has accumulated a wealth of information pertaining to tire defect cases. We have successfully handled tire litigation against nearly every major tire manufacturer, including tires made by Firestone, Michelin, Continental Tire, Cooper Tire, Kumho Tire, General Tire, BFGoodrich, Uniroyal and Titan Tire. Due to Rob Ammons' vast knowledge and experience in handling tire defect cases, he was chosen to serve on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for the Ford/Firestone tire litigation. Additionally, Mr. Ammons received the prestigious Steven J. Sharp Public Service Award from the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. This award was bestowed on Mr. Ammons in recognition of his contribution toward a safer, more just America by investigating and gathering evidence pertaining to tire tread separation and vehicle rollovers in Firestone Tire and Ford Explorer cases.



Bruton vs. General Motors

Post-Collision Fires

Every year thousands of innocent consumers suffer horribly disfiguring or fatal burn injuries in post-collision fires. Many of those injuries and deaths are caused by improperly designed fuel systems which allow fuel to spill during the accident. Fuel systems should be designed to maintain integrity during reasonably foreseeable accidents. We believe that a person should not survive a crash only to be burned in a post-collision fire. When that happens, we are prepared to pursue a fuel system defect case. We have experience investigating and pursuing cases concerning fuel system design defects which can involve fuel tank location, fuel filler cap design, filler pipe protection and attachment, fuel line protection and routing and fuel pump shutoff switches.



Rubin vs. Daimler/Chrysler Corp.

Seat Belt Defects

More Americans are now wearing seat belts compared to prior decades. As a consequence of more frequent usage, design flaws in seat belts have become more apparent. The recent sales explosion of rollover-prone SUVs and light trucks has revealed seat-belt related failures specific to rollover crashes. Testing sponsored by The Ammons Law Firm has shown that current belt systems do not properly hold the occupant in the seat. Excessive movement of the occupant in a rollover can cause serious injury and/or death by allowing partial ejection of the head and body through the side window. The Ammons Law Firm is at the forefront in handling seat belt defect cases.



Sandoval vs. Earthgrains Baking Companies

Trucking Accidents

More people die in collisions with trucks than in crashes involving planes, trains, ships and buses combined. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, ninety-eight percent of the individuals killed in collisions involving a large truck and a passenger vehicle are the occupants of the passenger vehicle. Despite these startling statistics, some trucking companies do very little to train or monitor their drivers. Due to trucking companies paying their drivers by the mile or by the load, the drivers have a financial incentive to exceed the speed limit, drive when they are tired and cut corners on safety. Commercial vehicle cases are governed by various complex regulations. Our attorneys have handled numerous cases against owners and operators of commercial motor vehicles, resulting in multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements for our clients.



Eisworth vs. Rowan Drilling Co.



Allen vs. Deep South Crane and Rigging



Arenazas vs. BP Amoco

Workplace Negligence

Workers on industrial and construction sites face potentially dangerous work situations every day. Despite numerous state and federal regulations, hundreds of thousands of employees are injured or killed in work-related accidents in the United States each year. Our attorneys have successfully pursued cases on behalf of workers injured as a result of falls from work areas, industrial equipment failure, plant explosions and other tragedies arising in or around construction sites. The Ammons Law Firm also handles cases involving workers injured offshore, including injuries that occur on jack-ups, dredge vessels, semi-submersibles, lay barges, drill ships, tugs/pushboats, crewboats, research vessels, diving vessels and other floating/movable work structures. Cases involving workers who suffer injuries that occur on offshore oil rigs and ships due to the negligence of others are governed by Admiralty law. Admiralty law, which involves cases brought under the Jones Act and the High Seas Act, is a highly complex and sophisticated area of the law. Our lawyers have the knowledge and capability to handle Admiralty law and other types of workplace negligence cases.



Nwanne vs. UOP, L.L.C. (animation)



Lopez vs. Chrysler (testing)



Valdez vs. Toyota (testing)



Substantial Resources

The Ammons Law Firm prides itself on providing clients and referral attorneys with substantial financial resources, state-of-the-art technology and investigative services required to ensure success in the courtroom. Our unique resources include a full service storage facility in Spring, Texas for housing vehicles and tires that are evidence in our cases. Our attorneys and the internationally renowned experts we retain for our product liability cases have access to the evidence and the inspection facilities they need to properly evaluate every case. Our firm jet is available to transport our attorneys anywhere in the United States and Mexico for meetings with clients, scene inspections, courtroom appearances, and all our litigation needs. Our firm is located in a historic Montrose mansion that has been transformed to accommodate our litigation practice. Our offices are equipped with the facilities and technology necessary to conduct focus groups and mock trials which help us analyze strategies and strengthen our presentations for jury trials. Our firm makes the financial commitment to invest in the technology and resources required to always be on the cutting edge in developing our clients' cases. We have the assets, resources and skills that are essential to successfully fight large corporations and ensure our clients' right to justice.

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- *State-of-the-Art Technology for Digital Imaging, Accident Reconstruction and Video Conferencing*
 - *Mock Trial Presentations / Focus Group Research*
 - *Medical Experts*
 - *Engineering Experts*
 - *Experienced Investigators*
 - *Firm Jet*

COMMITMENT TO OUR CLIENTS AND OUR COMMUNITY



The Ammons Law Firm is a personal injury trial firm committed exclusively to representing clients who have been injured or have died at the hands of someone's negligence. The Ammons Law Firm makes a personal commitment to our clients to concentrate all our efforts, expertise and resources to achieving the best possible results. The Ammons Law Firm has the financial resources and manpower to succeed in protecting our clients' fight for justice. In addition to being committed to justice for our clients, we are also committed to supporting our community.

Our firm makes various donations to non-profit organizations in order to help provide for those individuals who need assistance and to support the community in which we live and work.

With an eye toward the future, The Ammons Law Firm is proud to be a member of The Baylor University Endowed Scholarship Society supporting current and future Baylor students.

In addition, through the Aspiring Youth of Houston Program, our firm provides college scholarships to at-risk students, who might not otherwise be able to pursue a higher education.

At The Ammons Law Firm, our attorneys and staff take pride in our community and make the commitment that is necessary to help support those in need.
