

CASE STUDY

CASE NAME:

ROEUP PORK and CHHENG LY CHHAY

v.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES LIMITED,
a foreign corporation

NOLAN LAW GROUP CLIENT:

ROEUP PORK

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS:

Condon & Forsyth, LLP

CASE TYPE:

Aviation Disaster-
Traumatic Brain Injury



20 North Clark Street
30th Floor, Chicago, IL 60602

T: 312.630.4000
F: 312.630.4011
TF: 888.630.9340

contact@nolan-law.com
www.nolan-law.com

CASE FACTS:

On October 31, 2000, a Boeing 747 aircraft operated by Singapore Airlines as Flight SQ006 collided with construction equipment upon take-off from Chiang Kai-Shek Airport in Taipei, Taiwan. The plane tumbled down the runway, broke into several pieces, and burst into flames.

Flight SQ006 was bound for Los Angeles with an agreed stopover in Taipei, Taiwan. The flight was faced with adverse weather conditions from a typhoon rapidly approaching from the south. Despite the terrible weather conditions, the aircraft was dispatched for its flight to Los Angeles and was directed to proceed to runway 05R.

At approximately 11:17 p.m., local time, Flight SQ006 attempted takeoff but had lined up on the wrong runway (05L). As a result, Flight SQ006 hit the construction equipment and materials which were located on the closed runway. Post-accident analysis determined that the airplane hit an excavator and a concrete jersey barrier.



At the time of the accident, there were 179 people aboard Flight SQ006. 83 people suffered injuries that proved fatal and 96 people survived with varying injuries.

Roepup Pork was flying from Taipei to Los Angeles where she was to meet her husband and together they were to fly to their home in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was seated in 56K next to the window, 8 rows behind the break in the aft fuselage and to the right of her uncle Rem Phang, seated in 56J. Her assigned seat was located in the economy section of the airplane which suffered extensive fire damage.

Before losing consciousness, Roepup Pork remembers a loud sound and the plane tilting sideways. When she regained consciousness, she found herself upside down in her seat with her seatbelt still buckled. She was taken to the emergency room at Ming Sheng where she received medical treatment for first- and second-degree burns.

CASE STUDY

CASE NAME:

ROEUP PORK and CHHENG LY CHHAY

v.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES LIMITED,
a foreign corporation

NOLAN LAW GROUP CLIENT:

ROEUP PORK

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS:

Condon & Forsyth, LLP

CASE TYPE:

Aviation Disaster-
Traumatic Brain Injury

Following the accident, Singapore Airlines CEO, Dr. Cheong Choong, made several statements to the media indicating that SIA would accept full responsibility for the accident. Representatives from Singapore Air also offered cash compensation and counseling to injured victims and the family members of individuals who perished on the flight. Initially, SIA offered \$5,000 to injured passengers and \$25,000 for deceased passengers under the premise of immediate-need-based relief.

Nolan Law Group had several concerns about the way Singapore Airlines handled their post crash responsibilities and on several occasions publicly criticized the airline. Nolan Law Group believed SIA's offer to families was "predatory" and "wholly inadequate". The firm recommended that offer should be flatly rejected by the families. Nolan Law Group believed that recoverable damages to both the survivors and the victims would be well over the \$400,000 being offered.

Nolan Law Group found itself representing several survivors of the Singapore Airlines disaster, as well as many of the families who lost loved ones in the unfortunate accident. Nolan Law Group's Aviation Litigation Department ultimately filed suit on behalf of Roeup Pork and 40 other plaintiffs.



After every major international airline disaster, there is always considerable controversy over the intricate issues of jurisdiction and liability. In the context of international air crash litigation, the Warsaw Convention Treaty sets forth who an injured party or deceased's next-of-kin can sue, where they can sue and for how much. It also sets forth a passenger liability scheme which contains, among other things, limits on the monetary liability of an air carrier for the injury to (or death of) a passenger. Nolan Law Group would ultimately use many of the tenants of the Warsaw Convention to determine appropriate recovery amounts for their clients.

For cases involving serious injury, Nolan Law Group made efforts to illustrate the following conditions on our clients behalf: medical bills, current and future, psychological counseling for emotional shock, vocational damages, including past and present earnings, life care costs, loss of enjoyment of life and pain and suffering.



20 North Clark Street
30th Floor, Chicago, IL 60602

T: 312.630.4000
F: 312.630.4011
TF: 888.630.9340

contact@nolan-law.com
www.nolan-law.com

CASE STUDY

CASE NAME:

ROEUP PORK and CHHENG LY CHHAY

v.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES LIMITED,
a foreign corporation

NOLAN LAW GROUP CLIENT:

ROEUP PORK

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS:

Condon & Forsyth, LLP

CASE TYPE:

Aviation Disaster-
Traumatic Brain Injury

For cases involving the death of an individual, Nolan Law Group made efforts to illustrate the following conditions on our client's behalf: loss of support, companionship and society, pre-death pain and suffering and pre-impact mental terror.

Several of the Singapore Air cases involved clients with head injuries and or brain trauma as a result of the accident. Brain injuries are some of the most misunderstood and misdiagnosed types of personal injuries and are often confused with other psychological disorders such as Post Traumatic Stress. The firm utilized sophisticated medical technology and expert medical testimony to demonstrate the extent of brain damage which occurred. During mediation the firm presented images of our clients' own brain scans in conjunction with medical records as evidence of an injury. We also utilized highly respected medical professionals to testify to the ongoing physical, psychological and emotional issues related to the injuries our clients received.

To illustrate the economic impact that Roeup Pork's injuries would have on her life, Nolan Law Group obtained a personalized economic report. Based on Roeup Pork's current level of physical and cognitive functioning, our vocational economist developed a long-term care plan to identify the reasonable and expected costs associated with her case. The vocational economic assessment contains conclusions regarding lost earnings as well as the relevant factors supporting those conclusions. It also presents both the philosophy and the methodology employed in assessing the loss.

The Medical Care Cost Summary revealed that the monies needed by Mrs. Pork for future health and medical care were between \$2.5 million and \$3.1 million, stated in terms of present value, and based upon a range of treatment options and treatment costs with the underlying life care plan. This summary far exceeded the initial offers made by Singapore.

THE RESULTS:

In January of 2004, only two days before trial was set to begin, Nolan Law Group obtained a confidential seven-figure settlement from Singapore Airlines for the benefit of Roeup Pork.

If you would like more information about this case, contact Thomas J. Ellis at (312) 630-4000 or tje@nolan-law.com



NOLAN LAW GROUP

20 North Clark Street
30th Floor, Chicago, IL 60602

T: 312.630.4000
F: 312.630.4011
TF: 888.630.9340

contact@nolan-law.com
www.nolan-law.com