

# SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## Local Law School Grads Win Major Fen-Phen Case

### Bar Association to Present Nine Awards During Law Week

Taking on a major pharmaceutical company in a national lawsuit would seemingly be a challenge for any attorney.

But Mark Blane and Chad McGuire accepted that challenge and came out on top.

Less than two years out of law school and fighting their first case, Blane and McGuire reached a major settlement in the Fen-Phen diet drug case.

The former Thomas Jefferson School of Law students were both associates with Hiden, Rott & Oertle in Mission Valley at the time. They brought the case to the firm last December and reached a settlement with lawyers for Philadelphia-based American

Home Products, Inc., the sixth largest pharmaceutical drug manufacturer in the world.

"It was exhilarating, actually," said Blane, a 1998 Thomas Jefferson graduate and head of Hiden's drug litigation team. "It was a challenge, but I'm always up for a challenge."

"Chad and I just glued ourselves to the information available for 15 months and (studied) the litigation going on in California and nationwide."

The amount of the settlement was not disclosed because of pending litigation throughout the nation.

American Home Products reportedly has released \$5 billion in trust in an attempt to settle

the remaining claims throughout the country. The company manufactures and distributes more than 50 household brand-name products.

Hiden, Rott & Oertle have more than 75 Fen-Phen cases still pending.

Blane is also preparing for cases against Johnson & Johnson Corp., the maker of Propulsid, an acid reflux medication that is said to cause liver problems, and the maker of the Type II diabetes drug

Rezulin. He is also handling a case in federal court against Ford Motor Co. and Firestone/Bridgestone Inc. for vehicle rollovers.

McGuire, a 1999 Thomas Jefferson graduate,

is now in private practice in New Bedford, Mas

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