

SUPREME COURT  
**FILED**

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**S218176**

**IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA**

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**FLAVIO RAMOS et al.,**  
*Plaintiffs and Appellants,*

*v.*

**BRENNTAG SPECIALTIES, INC. et al.,**  
*Defendants and Respondents.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
AFTER A DECISION BY THE COURT OF APPEAL,  
SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT, DIVISION FOUR, CASE NO. B248038

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JOINDER BY DEFENDANT AND RESPONDENT  
LAGUNA CLAY COMPANY IN THE OPENING BRIEF  
ON THE MERITS FILED BY DEFENDANT AND  
RESPONDENT ALCOA, INC.**

**7<sup>th</sup>**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**GORDON & REES LLP**  
ROGER M. MANSUKHANI (BAR No. 164463)  
MATTHEW G. KLEINER (BAR No. 211842)  
BRANDON D. SAXON (BAR No. 252712)  
101 WEST BROADWAY, SUITE 2000  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101  
(619) 696-6700 • FAX: (619) 696-7124  
rmansukhani@gordonrees.com  
mkleiner@gordonrees.com, bsaxon@GORDONREES.COM  
ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT AND RESPONDENT  
**LAGUNA CLAY COMPANY**

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**ISSUE PRESENTED**

Whether a supplier of a multi-use raw material is responsible for a manufacturing worker's injuries allegedly caused while the material is subjected to manufacturing processes dictated by the worker's employer, without any input from or control by the supplier.

## INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 8.200(a)(5), Defendant and Respondent Laguna Clay Company, respectfully joins the arguments presented in the Opening Brief on the Merits filed by Defendant and Respondent Alcoa Inc.

Both Alcoa Inc. and Laguna Clay Company are identified by Appellants as suppliers of raw materials used in manufacturing at Plaintiff Flavio Ramos' place of employment. The factual basis, legal authority, and argument set forth by Respondent Alcoa Inc. in its Opening Brief on the Merits apply equally to Laguna Clay Company.

## PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

At trial, Laguna Clay Company joined in Alcoa Inc.'s demurrer to the Fourth Amended Complaint which resulted in judgment being entered in favor of all defendants based on the court of appeal's holding in *Maxton v. Western States Metals, et al.* (2012) 203 Cal.App.4th 81. In *Maxton*, a supplier of raw material was found to be not liable under products liability causes of action to an employee for workplace exposure from manufacturing activities absent specific exceptions.

Based upon *Maxton's* holding, the trial court correctly determined Plaintiffs' Fourth Amended Complaint could not have been amended in a way that would cure its defects and state a valid cause of action. On appeal, Division Four of the Second Appellate District of the Court of Appeal reversed. The California Supreme Court then granted Alcoa Inc.'s Petition for Review, which Laguna Clay Company properly joined.

## LEGAL DISCUSSION

Laguna Clay joins Alcoa's Opening Brief on the Merits because, like Alcoa's aluminum product, the sole product supplied by Laguna Clay Company to which Appellant Flavio Ramos claims exposure – ground limestone – is a raw material to which the component parts doctrine/raw material supplier doctrine applies. Indeed, both *Maxton* and the Restatement (Third) of Torts, Products Liability, from which the defense is derived, recognize that sand and gravel are quintessential raw materials that cannot be defectively designed and to which this doctrine applies.

## CONCLUSION

Respondent Laguna Clay Company respectfully incorporates by reference, as though set forth in full, Alcoa Inc.'s Opening Brief on the Merits and all other papers filed by Alcoa, Inc. before this Court. For the reasons stated, Laguna Clay Company requests that the Court reverse the ruling by Division Four of the Second Appellate District as it improperly expands the duties of a raw material suppliers based on mistakes of law and fact.

September 5, 2014

**GORDON & REES LLP**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Roger M. Mansukhani  
Matthew G. Kleiner  
Brandon D. Saxon

Attorneys for Defendant and Respondent  
**LAGUNA CLAY COMPANY**

**CERTIFICATE OF WORD COUNT**  
**(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.520(c).)**

The text of this brief consists of 641 words as counted by the Microsoft Word version 2010 word processing program used to generate the brief.

Dated: September 5, 2014

  
Maria Gonzalez

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, say: I am over 18 years of age, employed in the County of San Diego, California, in which the within-mentioned service occurred; and that I am not a party to the subject cause. My business address is Gordon & Rees LLP, 101 West Broadway, Ste. 2000, San Diego, CA 92101. On September 5, 2014, I served true and correct copy of the following document(s):

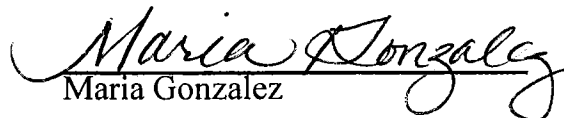
**JOINDER BY DEFENDANT AND RESPONDENT LAGUNA CLAY COMPANY IN THE OPENING BRIEF ON THE MERITS FILED BY DEFENDANT AND RESPONDENT ALCOA, INC.**

- ( X ) **BY FIRST CLASS MAIL** (C.C.P. §1013a, et seq.): I caused said document(s) to be deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid at San Francisco, California, following the ordinary practice at my place of business of collection and processing of mail with the U.S. Postal Service on the same day as shown on this declaration (**SEE SERVICE LIST**):
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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 5, 2014, at San Diego, California.

  
Maria Gonzalez

**SERVICE LIST**

**Ramos, Flavio, et al. v. Brenntag Specialties, Inc., et al.**

<b>ATTORNEY</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
Raphael Metzger Ken Holdren LAW OFFICES OF RAPHAEL METZGER 401 E. Ocean Blvd, Suite 800 Long Beach, CA 90802-4966 (One copy by U.S. Mail)	Plaintiff/Appellant FLAVIO RAMOS; MODESTA RAMOS
Brian P. Barrow SIMON GREENSTONE PANATIER BARTLETT 301 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 1950 Long Beach, CA 90802 (One copy by U.S. Mail)	Plaintiff/Appellant FLAVIO RAMOS
Robert Kum Mathew R. Groseclose SEDGWICK LLP 801 S. Figueroa St., 18th Fl. Los Angeles, CA 90017-5556 (One copy by U.S. Mail)  Alison Anderson Williams-Andre SEDGWICK DETERT MORAN & ARNOLD 801 S. Figueroa St., 19th Fl. Los Angeles, CA 90017 (One copy by U.S. Mail)	Defendant/Respondent BRENNTAG SPECIALTIES, INC.; Defendant/Respondent BRENNTAG NORTH AMERICA
Cesar A. Alvarado Eugene Charles Blackard, Jr. Devon E. Downs ARCHER NORRIS 2033 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Walnut Creek, CA 94596-3759 (One copy by U.S. Mail)	Defendant/Respondent VALLEY FORGE INSURANCE COMPANY; Defendant/Respondent FIREMAN'S FUND INSURANCE COMPANY; Defendant/Respondent AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY - settled
Clayton Taylor Lee Kevin Lee Eng George E. Nowotny LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH, LLP 221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90012 (One copy by U.S. Mail)	Defendant/Respondent VALLEY FORGE INSURANCE COMPANY Defendant/Respondent FIREMAN'S FUND INSURANCE COMPANY; Defendant/Respondent AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY - settled



<b>ATTORNEY</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
<p>Eugene C. Blackard Jr., Esq.  ARCHER NORRIS  2033 N. Main St., Ste 800  Walnut Creek, CA 94596-3759  T: (925) 930-6600; F: (925) 930-6620  eblackardAarchernorris.com  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Attorneys for Di Mario Corp., Inc.</p>
<p>Ruth Segal  Rosemary H. Do  LYNBERG &amp; WATKINS  888 S. Figueroa St., 16th Fl.  Los Angeles, CA 90017-5449  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent PORTER  WARNER INDUSTRIES, LLC</p>
<p>Kevin Lee Place  Archer Norris  333 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 3680  Los Angeles, CA 90071  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/respondent THE  PRYOR-GIGGEY COMPANY</p>
<p>Thomas C. Hurrell  Erica Bianco  HURRELL &amp; CANTRALL, LLP  700 S. Flower St., Suite 900  Los Angeles, CA 90017  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent UNITED  STATES GYPSUM COMPANY;  Defendant/Respondent  WESTSIDE BUILDING  MATERIALS CORPORATION</p>
<p>Jill A. Franklin  SCHAFFER, LAX, MCNAUGHTON &amp;  CHEN  515 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1400  Los Angeles, CA 90017  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent SCOTT  SALES COMPANY</p>
<p>Sonja A. Inglin  Ryan David Fischbach  BAKER &amp; HOSTETLER  12100 Wilshire blvd., 15th Floor  Los Angeles, CA 90025-7120  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent RTA  SALES PTY, LTD.   Settled</p>
<p>David L. Winter  BATES WINTER &amp; CAMERON, LLP  925 Highland Pointe Drive, Ste 380  Roseville, CA 95678  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent  SOUTHWIRE COMPANY</p>

ATTORNEY	PARTY
<p>Diane Flannery  MCGUIREWOODS LLP  One James Center  901 East Cary Street  Richmond, VA 23219-4030  804.775.1015 (Direct Line)  804.698.2047 (Direct FAX)  dflannery@mcguirewoods.com  http://www.mcguirewoods.com  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent  CENTURY KENTUCKY, INC.</p>
<p>Douglas W. Beck  LAW OFFICERS OF DOUGLAS W.  BECK  21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 500  Torrance, CA 90503  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent SCHORR  METALS, INC.</p>
<p>Susan Lauren Caldwell  KOLETSKY MANCINI, ET CL.  3460 Wilshire Blvd., 8th Floor  Los Angeles, CA 90010  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent TST, INC.</p>
<p>Stephen C. Snider  SNIDER, DIEHL &amp; RASMUSSEN  P.O. Box 650  1111 W. Tokay Street  Lodi, CA 95241  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent J.R.  SIMPLOT COMPANY</p>
<p>Stephen C. Chuck  Victoria Jane Tsoong  CHUCK BIRKETT TSOONG  790 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 793  Pasadena, CA 91101  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	<p>Defendant/Respondent  RESOURCE BUILDING  MATERIALS</p>
<p>Clerk for the Hon. Amy D. Hogue  LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT  111 N. Hill Street, Dept. 34  Los Angeles, California 90012-3014  (One copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	
<p>California Court of Appeal  Second Appellate District, Div. 4  Ronald Reagan State Building  300 S. Spring Street  2nd Floor, North Tower  Los Angeles, CA 90013  (One Copy by U.S. Mail)</p>	
<p>Supreme Court of California  350 McAllister Street  San Francisco, CA 94102-4797  (Via Federal Express Original and 8  copies)</p>	