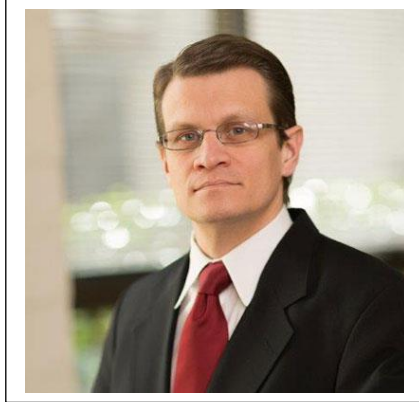
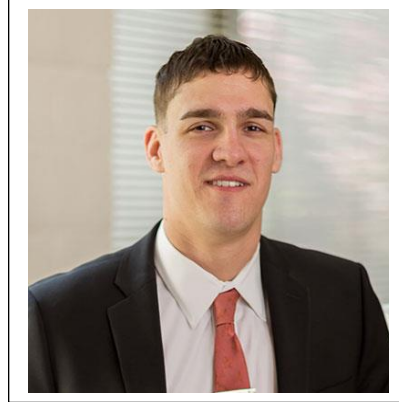


NO TRIPPING UP Attorneys Cridland & Ullrich



GRAHAM M. CRIDLAND



GABRIEL R. ULLRICH

In July 2018, Attorneys **GRAHAM M. CRIDLAND** and **GABRIEL R. ULLRICH** of **Ericksen Arbuthnot's** Sacramento office were retained to represent a general contractor in relation to an alleged trip and fall incident which was alleged to have occurred at Woodrow Wilson Manor, a senior housing apartment complex in Yolo County, California. Plaintiff previously filed suit against the management company for the apartment complex. In turn, Plaintiff filed suit against General Contractor. Then, Plaintiff **promptly filed a motion for a preferential trial setting. The Court granted the Motion and drastically limited the time for discovery and preparation by Attorneys Cridland and Ullrich for the defense.**

Throughout discovery and during trial, Plaintiff alleged that the general contractor and the property management permitted a dangerous condition to exist at the property and that General Contractor was negligent in its construction of the parking lot, causing Plaintiff to trip and fall. More specifically, Plaintiff claimed that certain aspects of the as-built condition of the parking lot were contrary to the design obtained by the general contractor, and alleged those changes were a substantial factor in causing harm.

A Motion for Summary Adjudication filed by Ericksen Arbuthnot on behalf of General Contractor was successful in eliminating Plaintiff's cause of action for premises liability. At trial, Plaintiff claimed various injuries secondary to the alleged trip and fall incident:

- Fractures to Tibia, Patella, and Wrist causing loss of independence, permanent disability, pain and suffering
- Significant cognitive changes, memory loss, depression, anxiety, and changes to activities of daily living
- A subsequent fall in January 2018, as a direct and proximate result of the June 2016 fall, resulting in a thoracic spine compression fracture causing residual permanent disability and residual pain

In defense of General Contractor, Mr. Cridland and Mr. Ullrich argued that the condition of the parking lot, though different from the plans and specifications, was consistent with industry standards and not unsafe. Mr. Cridland and Mr. Ullrich also **presented evidence** of the detail pages of the plans, which assisted the jury to understand the change orders and other decisions made by the contractor. Additionally, Mr. Cridland and Mr. Ullrich presented **expert testimony** explaining why the as-built condition of the parking lot did not cause, or contribute to, the subject trip and fall incident.

The trial began on April 2, 2019. The Jury returned a VERDICT FOR THE DEFENSE in favor of Ericksen Arbuthnot's client on April 29, 2019.

Graham M. Cridland is a partner in the firm's **Sacramento** office and **Gabriel R. Ullrich** is a senior associate in **Sacramento**.