

SF FINANCIAL ABUSE ATTORNEY RECEIVES HONOR

By Derek Lee

SAN FRANCISCO—On Monday, November 7, The Elder Financial Protection Network, (EFPN), honored San Francisco elder abuse attorney Ingrid Evans with the Donald N. Phelps Visionary Leadership Award at the 11th National Call to Action Summit in Los Angeles.

The EFPN, a nonprofit organization that works to prevent financial abuse of elders and dependent adults, recognized Evans for her contributions and advocacy for the elderly community, which are, but not limited to: representing financial abuse cases, writing to legislation on behalf of senior citizens and helping victims testify against financial annuities.

According to the June 15, 2010 *Elder Investment Fraud and Financial Exploitation Survey* conducted by Infogroup/ORC, 20 percent of Americans aged 65 or older, approximately 7.3 million senior citizens, already have "been

taken advantage of financially in terms of an inappropriate investment, unreasonably high fees for financial services, or outright fraud."

Evans spoke with San Francisco News about this issue and said that common financial abuse cases are companies selling insurance products, annuities and long-term care insurance to senior citizens. These products sold to seniors are things people do not necessarily need, and Evans said that, "The healthcare products sold to her clients hurt their retirement."

She described that senior citizens are often taken advantage of by their caretakers, who are unqualified to access personal information. In one specific instance, a caretaker earned their client's trust and was given access to the client's deed to the house. Though this was an extreme case, Evans confirmed that what usually happens is an investment advisor gains the trust of an elderly

client and pushes papers in front of them to sign without giving full disclosure.

Evans shared that she and her law firm are currently representing a 91-year-old man who was sold many annuities, which have locked up his finances, and he has lost more than 50 percent of his liquid assets.

Evans concluded her interview with San Francisco News by saying that she is humbled to be honored by EFPN and will continue to advocate senior citizens. Her final statement regarding elderly financial exploitation is, "There is a lot of financial abuse in California, specifically in the Bay Area. It is important that senior citizens and their families communicate openly, and clearly when agreeing to annuities and have full disclosure before signing documents."

Ingrid Evans is the founding partner of the Evans Law Firm, a plaintiffs'



Ingrid Evans. Photo courtesy of Evans Law Firm.

firm that defends elders from physical and financial abuse. For a series of tips regarding elder financial abuse, visit the January/February archives on the Evans Law Firm blog at evanslaw.com/_blog/Blog.

MUNI ACCIDENT: FEMALE PEDESTRIAN SERIOUSLY INJURED

By Derek Lee

SAN FRANCISCO—A 19-year-old woman was hit by San Francisco MUNI's M-Ocean View Inbound train on Thursday, November 3.

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency media relations manager, Paul Rose, confirmed with San Francisco News that MUNI operators "who were on the scene on Thursday have identified the location as: 19th and Randolph on the M-line. The pedestrian and LRV (light rail vehicle) made contact in between the two track ways in the intersection. The incident occurred at 5:27 pm and was cleared at 6:40 pm."

The woman suffered head trauma and was transferred to the San Francisco General Hospital. Police originally reported that the victim was in "serious but stable condition," but police Sgt. Mike Andraychak told the press on Friday, November 4 that her status has

worsened to critical condition.

The MUNI driver has undergone standard procedure drug and alcohol tests following the incident. "The operator is still on non-driving status pending the investigations," Rose said to San Francisco News.

Currently, the San Francisco Police Department is continuing their investigation regarding November 3 accident. No reported comments have been made by the victim's family, and as of Tuesday, November 8, no status updates have been released to the public.

According to the *San Francisco 2009 Collision Report*, the latest public report available courtesy of SFMTA, pedestrian collisions have slowly been in decline. Furthermore, the location of the accident, 19th Avenue, has reduced the rate of collisions from 2008 to 2009.



M-Line MUNI Train, taken from SF Francis Circle

AMERICA'S CUP COMING TO SF

By Chris Flagler

SAN FRANCISCO—In the summer of 2013, San Francisco will play host to one of the oldest trophies in international sport, as it welcomes America's Cup. The months leading up to the summer of 2013 will see a challenger selection series, a defender selection series, culminating with the America's Cup.

Since its founding in 1851, the New York Yacht Club has been a major contender, keeping the America's Cup in American possession for well over 100

years. The New York Yacht Club has given way to the Golden Gate Yacht Club, which will be representing United States sailing prowess in the 2013 event.

This upcoming cup will see the debut of a new class of boat: the AC72. The new boats will build off of the previous AC32 design as a wing-sailed catamaran. The 34th America's Cup consists of three main stages: the America's Cup World Series, the Louis Vuitton Cup and the America's Cup Finals. San

Francisco will reap many benefits by hosting the event, and the Office of the Mayor speculates that "an estimated 8,800 jobs" will be created, as well as "nearly 1.4 billion in economic impacts to the City and County of San Francisco."

Wealth and prestige have long surrounded the America's Cup. Wealthy organizations and individuals have historically been the driving force behind the formation of sailing teams and the yacht clubs they race for. To many

teams, the only option is to emerge victorious. A historical anecdote from the America's Cup web page tells of Queen Victoria asking which team was in second place, only to have one of her attendants reply, "Your Majesty, there is no second."

San Francisco is an ideal location for such a historically significant sporting event, as the city's natural vantage points will give spectators a brilliant view all set before the Golden Gate Bridge.