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BROCK AND GONZALES, LLP:
**JURY AWARDS \$1.2 MILLION IN DAMAGES AGAINST CIRCLE K
STORES, INC. IN FAVOR OF INJURED MOTHER**

This is believed to be the largest wheel stop verdict in California history.

LAKE ELSINORE, CA—Brock and Gonzales, LLP

A unanimous jury awarded Maeve Kelly \$1,238,500 in a personal injury case against Circle K Stores, Inc. for a hazardous parking lot wheel stop that Ms. Kelly tripped over, causing her serious injury. This is believed to be the largest wheel stop verdict in California.

In June 2021, Maeve Kelly, a 22-year-old mother, stopped for gas at a Circle K in Lake Elsinore, California. After being unable to use her credit card at the pump, Kelly put her five-month-old daughter in a carrier and attempted to walk into the store. As she was walking towards the store's front entrance, she tripped on a camouflaged wheel stop placed in front of two red bollards blocking the pathway to the store's front door. She fell directly onto her knee, shattering her kneecap, and landed on top of the carrier which was holding her child. Ms. Kelly's injuries required surgical repair, leaving Kelly with a plate and screws in her knee. Her child was unharmed.

Circle K opened its gas station and convenience store in Lake Elsinore, California in 2020. Upon completion of construction, offset gray wheel stops were placed in front of the entrance to the store in each parking spot. Although not included in the original construction drawings, bright red bollards were placed immediately behind those wheel stops. Because of the offset nature of the wheel stops, some pathways through the bollards, including the pathway to the main

entrance, were obstructed. Additionally, the color and material of the wheel stops was identical to the ground, making them nearly impossible to differentiate.

Circle K was aware of the hazardous nature of these wheel stops as in the short period of time between when the store opened in September 2020 and April 2021, five people tripped over the same wheel stop, including Ms. Kelly and a child. Indeed, several Circle K employees reported to the company about the dangerous nature of the wheel stops. Despite this, Circle K chose to do nothing about it.

“This verdict sends a message, that business should make the safety of their customers a priority. Because of this incident, Ms. Kelly spent the entire first year of her child’s life in a wheelchair. She will never get that time back.” said Ms. Kelly’s attorney, Aaron Brock.

Ms. Kelly’s trial team included Aaron Brock, Lee Cirsch and Lindsay Bowden of Brock & Gonzales, LLP

About Brock and Gonzales, LLP

Brock & Gonzales LLP is a California full-service employment law and personal injury law firm with offices in Los Angeles, Westlake Village, Oakland and Sacramento. The firm is committed to protecting the rights of employees and ensuring that individuals seriously injured by the negligence of others are fairly compensated for all the harm they have suffered. This firm’s mission is to give clients the opportunity to stand up to their wrongdoers in the only forum where everyone is equal — the courtroom.

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