

VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY

VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

Woman killed in Oklahoma tractor-trailer accident

\$800,000 Settlement

On March 8, 2010, decedent was driving a 1990 Ford pick-up truck on County Road 3600 just east of Ada, Okla. She was making a right turn on State Highway 1 when an approaching 18-wheeler tractor-trailer crashed into her vehicle. The pick-up was pushed down the road about 660 feet and decedent had to be removed with the help of hydraulic tools after being trapped in the vehicle for about 45 minutes. An ambulance rushed her to the hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Decedent's husband was appointed personal representative of her estate, which included two children. Plaintiff filed suit in Oklahoma state court in 2011. The lawsuit claimed that defendant tractor-trailer driver was wanton, willful and reckless due to his actions, which included driving too fast for the weather conditions.

Type of action: Wrongful death-tractor trailer accident

Name of case: Taylor v. HTC H20 Inc. and Thomas

Date resolved: Early 2013

Verdict or settlement: Settlement

Amount: \$800,000

Attorneys for plaintiff: Jim Hurley, Norfolk; Tony Laizure, Tulsa, Okla.; Stephen Smith, Hampton

Insurance carriers: Progressive; Union Standard



HURLEY



LAIZURE

After extensive discovery, the parties agreed to mediation with the tractor-trailer's insurance carrier. Mediation was held in Tulsa, Okla., on Nov. 12, 2012, resulting in a \$700,000 settlement. Plaintiff had previously collected \$100,000 from decedent's insurance carrier. The bulk of the proceeds went into structured settlements for the two children of the marriage.

[13-T-084]



SMITH