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Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP Announces a Wrongful Death Lawsuit Filed Against Toyota Motor Sales USA and Others Alleging Unintended Acceleration of a Toyota Vehicle

Kansas City, MO - Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP (<http://www.stuevesiegel.com>) filed a lawsuit on behalf of the children of a 40 year-old Kansas City resident who was killed when crushed by a runaway 2002 Toyota Land Cruiser. Rosland Watson was struck and killed by the Toyota at a Grandview, Missouri car wash in November 2009. The lawsuit names Toyota Motor Sales USA, the maker of the 2002 Land Cruiser that hit Ms. Watson; the driver of the Toyota vehicle; and the car wash where the accident occurred.

The lawsuit alleges that Ms. Watson was sitting on a car wash bench waiting for her car to be dried by the car wash attendants when the Toyota suddenly and unexpectedly accelerated and crushed her against the wall of the car wash. Ms. Watson later died from her severe injuries.

Todd Hilton and Eric Dirks, both of Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP, represent Ms. Watson's family. "We believe the evidence will show that Ms. Watson's untimely and tragic death would never have occurred if the defendants had followed simple safety and design standards," Hilton said. The lawsuit outlines that the defendants each share substantial liability in this case:

- Toyota is no stranger to accidents caused by its defective acceleration and braking systems resulting in unintended acceleration and should be held accountable for their negligence. They were aware of the defect for many years, but did nothing to deal with the problem.
- The car wash is also liable in this case because it did not live up to its duty to provide a safe environment for its clients. Specifically, the waiting area was outside, adjacent to the car wash bay exit and did not have a barrier between the exit and the waiting area. Additionally, car wash employees allowed the driver of the Toyota to operate his vehicle in an area that was designated for employees only.
- The driver of the Toyota breached his duty of care and was negligent in the operation of his vehicle by failing to properly control his vehicle and take appropriate action under the circumstances.

“Ms. Watson was taken from her family much too early. What’s worse is that the tragedy was avoidable,” said Eric Dirks. Hilton added, “the family lost a devoted mother and grandmother, all at a very young age and at a time when Ms. Watson was contributing so much to each of their lives in so many different ways.”

Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP represents plaintiffs and their families nationwide in complex product liability cases involving wrongful death and catastrophic injuries.