

SNELL & WILMER SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS FORD MOTOR COMPANY

LAS VEGAS (November 12, 2012) – Snell & Wilmer attorneys [Daniel S. Rodman](#) and [Jay J. Schuttert](#) successfully represented Ford Motor Company (Ford) in a case tried in the United States District Court, District of Nevada in Las Vegas, Nevada.

On November 7, Ford received a unanimous defense verdict from a Nevada federal court jury in the wrongful death case of a man involved in a head-on collision in 2007. His heirs claimed that he died of a head injury due to a design defect in the 2007 Ford Focus's airbag system.

“While our thoughts go out to the family who lost a loved one, we are pleased with the verdict,” says Rodman. “The unanimous defense verdict that was reached in under an hour reflects the strength of Ford's case, and confirms our belief that this was a lawsuit that should never have been filed.”

The plaintiffs in the case claimed that the driver airbag in the 2007 Ford Focus was defectively designed because the airbag did not deploy when the driver lost control of the Focus and struck a tree on the opposite side of the road. The Clark County Coroner determined that the driver died due to a head injury. Plaintiffs claimed that the failure of the airbag to deploy in the crash allowed the man to strike his head on the Focus's steering wheel, causing his death.

Ford denied that the 2007 Ford Focus was defective and explained that the driver airbag was not intended to deploy in low speed crashes like the one involving this man. Ford also presented evidence that the man did not die of a head injury; rather, he suffered a medical event prior to losing control of the Focus and had slumped to the right and out of his seatbelt at the time of the tree impact.

Plaintiffs filed the lawsuit in 2009 and the trial began on October 29, 2012. After an eight-day trial, the jury returned a unanimous defense verdict for Ford following 45 minutes of deliberation.

About Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.

Founded in 1938, Snell & Wilmer is a full-service business law firm with more than 400 attorneys practicing in nine locations throughout the western United States and in Mexico, including Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Denver, Colorado; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Los Cabos, Mexico. The firm represents clients ranging from large, publicly traded corporations to small businesses, individuals and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit www.swlaw.com.

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