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SNELL & WILMER ATTORNEYS OBTAIN COMPLETE JURY VERDICT FOR FORD MOTOR COMPANY

LOS ANGELES (March 13, 2015) Snell & Wilmer attorneys [Daniel S. Rodman](#), [Jay J. Schuttert](#), and [Jonathan R. Murphy](#) successfully represented Ford Motor Company (Ford) in a case tried in the United States District Court in the Central District of California in downtown Los Angeles.

On March 5, Ford received a unanimous defense verdict from a California district court jury in the wrongful death case of a man involving a rollover that occurred in June 2011 on a freeway in California. His heirs claimed that the 2002 Ford Explorer Sport Trac truck was defective because its roof deformed during the rollover, and because it lacked a rollover-activated side curtain airbag system to prevent partial ejections.

“While our thoughts are with the family, we view the jury’s unanimous defense verdict after less than 90 minutes of deliberations as a resounding rejection of the Plaintiffs’ arguments that the Sport Trac’s roof was defective, or that the vehicle was unsafe without roll-activated side curtain airbags,” said Rodman.

Schuttert said that Ford was the first auto manufacturer in the world to develop a rollover activated side curtain airbag system, but the evidence was that the system simply wasn’t ready or available at the time the plaintiff’s 2002 Ford Explorer Sport Trac truck was manufactured.

The rollover occurred when the driver failed to slow for stopped traffic ahead of him and swerved the truck off of Interstate 5, where it rolled over three and three-quarters times. The driver died from injuries sustained in the accident.

“Had the jury found a defect due to the absence of a rollover activated airbag, millions of vehicles could have been implicated,” added Rodman. Plaintiffs filed the lawsuit in September 2012 and the trial began on February 25, 2015. After a seven-day trial, the jury returned a unanimous defense verdict for Ford.

Snell & Wilmer’s team of [product liability](#) attorneys regularly defend manufacturers and distributors in many types of product liability cases and try them throughout the United States. Our attorneys have extensive trial experience in both state and federal courts involving cases in the automotive products, construction equipment, medical devices and equipment and pharmaceutical product industries, among others.

About Snell & Wilmer

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 Denver, Colorado; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; 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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