

\$160 MILLION VERDICT SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON HEAVY TRUCK SAFETY

When the unimaginable unfolds: Our attorneys secured a \$160 million verdict after a defective design changed our client's life forever.

Montgomery, AL (September 9, 2024) - Beasley Allen's Ben Baker, Kendall Dunson, and Wyatt Montgomery secured a \$160 Million Verdict in the Circuit Court for Clarke County, Alabama, alongside Co-Counsel Matt Drinkard and Eddie Massey, after a collision on Highway 84 resulted in our client's incomplete quadriplegia.

The incident unfolded on what began as an ordinary workday for Leonard Wiley Street, who was operating a 2023 Western Star truck carrying wood products. The day took a catastrophic turn when a pick-up truck crossed the center line, entering Street's Lane and hitting his front wheel. The collision forced Street off the road, resulting in a rollover that fractured his neck due to the significant roof crush and the lack of an automatic pull-down safety seat in the cab.

This case sheds light on the critical issues of heavy truck safety—something we see far too often. The 2023 Western Star cab, designed in 1995, and the driver's seat were found to be defectively designed and manufactured by Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA) and Western Star Trucks. These defects were the cause of Street's injuries.

"This case highlights DTNA's failure to increase cab strength for nearly 30 years despite the knowledge that rollovers represent the single most harmful event for truck drivers. DTNA had an automatic pull-down seat for rollover safety but refused to make it a standard feature. We hope this verdict will change the way DTNA views driver safety," said Beasley Allen's Ben Baker.

The case is *Street v. Daimler Trucks North America LLC; Western Star Truck Sales, Inc.*

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