

WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUIT FILED AFTER ALABAMA AVIATION CRASH

Routine Flight to Fatal Disaster: Holding Manufacturers Accountable for Preventable Failures.

Montgomery, AL (December 2, 2025) – What began as a routine flight ended in tragedy when a Piper PA-32R-301T aircraft crashed near Attalla, Alabama, on November 27, 2023, claiming the life of Charles Walker Pickering, Jr.

Now, Beasley Allen Law Firm, together with Greene & Phillips, has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Baldwin County Circuit Court on behalf of Marcia Miller Pickering, Personal Representative of Mr. Pickering's estate.

The complaint names multiple defendants—Textron Inc., Textron Systems Corporation, Avco Corporation, Lycoming Engines, Champion Aerospace, Continental Aerospace Technologies, Sarasota Avionics, Anson Air, and LSA Services—alleging negligence in the design, manufacture, inspection, maintenance, and repair of critical engine components and the aircraft itself.

According to the filing, Mr. Pickering was en route from Tennessee to Alabama when the aircraft experienced a sudden loss of engine RPM. Despite declaring an emergency, the plane crashed into mountainous terrain minutes later. A Federal Aviation Administration investigation uncovered fractured gear assemblies and missing gear teeth in the magneto and idler gears—defects alleged to have caused the catastrophic engine failure.

The lawsuit further asserts that service providers failed to properly inspect and maintain the aircraft, overlooking critical issues with the left-hand magneto, crankshaft idler gear, and fuel pump idler gear assembly. These lapses, the complaint argues, created an unreasonable risk of harm and ultimately led to the fatal crash.

"This case is about accountability and safety," said Mike Andrews of Beasley Allen. "The complaint details significant mechanical failures that should never occur in an aircraft engine, and our investigation will focus on how and why these defects reached the cockpit. We intend to prove these allegations in court and help ensure no other family faces a tragedy like this because preventable defects were allowed to persist."

The suit brings claims under Alabama law, including:

- Product Liability under the Alabama Extended Manufacturers Liability Doctrine (AEMLD)
- Negligence and Wantonness in design, manufacture, and maintenance
- Wrongful Death

The plaintiff seeks punitive damages to hold all defendants accountable and deter similar conduct in the future. A jury trial has been requested.

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“Our client’s family deserves answers, and the aviation community deserves assurance that aircraft are designed, built, and maintained to the highest standards,” added David Greene of Greene & Phillips, echoed by Britt Bethea of the same firm. “We are committed to pursuing the facts and holding all responsible parties to account under Alabama law.”

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