

TRIUMPH IN TRAGEDY: \$162 MILLION SETTLEMENT IN 15-PASSENGER VAN ROLLOVER CASE

A beacon of hope following a catastrophic accident that claimed the lives of seven women and injured eight others—each death a harrowing loss, each survivor’s pain unimaginable.

Atlanta (June 25, 2024) - Beasley Allen and Shiver Hamilton Campbell secured a total of \$162 million from various defendants in a vehicle rollover case that killed seven women and injured several others. The settlement is believed to be Georgia’s largest arising out of a single automobile accident.

The tragic accident took place in 2021 and involved a vehicle carrying 16 women from an addiction recovery community to a meeting in Georgia. The driver changed lanes, causing a loss of control. The van then overturned and slid across two lanes of traffic on an interstate in Georgia.

The tragedy caused the vehicle to catch fire; seven of the passengers died, while another nine were badly injured. This settlement is not just a testament to the two firms’ legal prowess but also a light at the end of the tunnel for the families affected.

The lawsuits focused on various factors contributed by the defendants that came together to make the van more likely to roll over. The firms’ strategic approach—meticulously selecting the order and timing of settlements—allowed pressure to be put on the defendants in a strategic order while also preventing the defendants from deflecting blame onto each other. Like many cases, this case transformed a great deal from when it originally started. Piecing together the various puzzle pieces that led to this incident and determining how they contributed to this horrific loss was part of the challenge.

“This case again shows me how well this team works. It isn’t the first time. It won’t be the last. Things work out well when you have your priorities in order. At work, that’s putting those seven women who died and eight who were injured first. We did that, and it shows. You won’t hear me say I’m proud too often. I may be wrong for doing so now, but I’m proud as heck to be a part of this team,” said Beasley Allen’s Chris Glover, Managing Attorney of our Atlanta Office.

Co-lead counsel Alan Hamilton of Shiver Hamilton Campbell added, “This is among the most tragic cases I have ever handled. Our two firms collaborated closely, daily, for years to get justice for these survivors and family members of those who died. This case was extremely complex, both legally and factually. Every single person on the team had to do their part to achieve this outcome.”

This case was more than a legal challenge; it was a journey that profoundly transformed the team’s professional lives and reinforced our commitment to justice. Beasley Allen represented five of the wrongful death claims and four injury claimants.

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Shiver Hamilton Campbell represented two wrongful death claims and another four injury claimants. Commenting on the collaboration, Glover stated, “It was an honor to work together on this case to achieve what we believe is justice for these deserving women. They did nothing to contribute to this horrific incident, yet their lives were either lost or derailed. This is why I’m a lawyer.” Hamilton added, “The work we did together for our clients will be one of the most memorable and meaningful experiences of my career.”

The defendants continued to deny liability throughout the litigation, and any individual settlements that may have occurred between the various parties are confidential.

The Beasley Allen team was led by Chris Glover, who worked alongside Greg Allen, Alyssa Baskam, and Stephen Mulherin. Alan Hamilton led the Shiver Hamilton Campbell team with attorneys Kyle Wallace and Sarah Adle.

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