

Featured Case:

Jeep Cherokee Rollaway Danger

In April 2016, the Chrysler announced a voluntary recall of over 150 vehicle models, including 2014-2015 Jeep Grand Cherokees, for a defective parking pawl (Pawl) operation. Drivers were seeing their vehicles without properly shifting into park, and the vehicles were rolling and moving into streets and parks. Over 200 consumers had filed complaints about the gear pawl with 20 individuals reported serious injuries. The company also advised, "owners used as much as many clicks to fix 2014 Jeeps and Cherokees. Reports indicated the pawl locked the vehicle, rolled down the driveway, and sometimes impacted and trapped between the car and the guard gate. The car was moving and in motion at the time of the accident, and it required the recall notice until they got the fix."

The Cooper Firm has filed two lawsuits on behalf of individuals who were injured as a result of a rolling Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicle in the above recall.

In This Issue:

- 1 Featured Case:**
Jeep Cherokee
Rollaway Danger
New Ruling States
Bankruptcy Will Not
Protect GM from
Ignition Switch Claims
- 2 TCF Team Updates:**
OAL Event
- 3 Case:** Jeep Rollaway
Attorney Partnerships
The Parsons Firm
- 4 Contact**

New Ruling States Bankruptcy Will Not Protect GM from Ignition Switch Claims

Recently the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the 2009 bankruptcy filing by GM will not protect the company from claims related to the defective ignition switches installed on their vehicles from the years 1989-2014.

In 2016, GM announced a voluntary recall of nearly 2 million vehicles due to an ignition switch that could slip into an accessory position, effectively turning the car off without intent by the driver. The recall came about as a result of the relentless pursuit of justice by the 8-year victim, the parents of Brooke Weston who died from injuries sustained in a fatal accident as a result of a faulty ignition switch in her Chevrolet Cobalt. The Cooper Firm had the privilege of representing the Weston family on this case. It's important to know the outcome of the case proved that GM knew about the faulty ignition switch for years and chose not to fix or recall many of their vehicles. GM ultimately expanded the recall to nearly 30 million vehicles worldwide.



"...GM knew about the faulty ignition switch for years and chose not to fix it..."

Announcing Bankruptcy in 2009 led to the creation of what was dubbed "New GM." According to the ruling, "New GM" could never be held responsible for any misconduct by "Old GM" (ie. knowingly installing faulty ignition switches in new vehicles and thereafter were immune to any lawsuits or claims from accidents that happened prior to 2009). The court's opinion changed all of that. The 2nd Circuit ruled that the bankruptcy court had no jurisdiction to free GM of those claims. The decision to file for bankruptcy does not change the fact that GM was aware of the issue and chose to hide it, depriving people their right to due process since they were not notified of the safety issue prior to the filing.

This is a great win for consumers who were affected by this recall as well as to use an unprecedented amount of case law from accidents that occurred prior to 2009 as a result of the faulty ignition switch and the actions of GM.

Check to see if your vehicle has an active recall here: NHTSA.gov