THE COOPER FIRM

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THE JUSTICE REPORT

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Featured Case:

Mazda Seatback Failure Case Settled

The Cooper Firm recently settled a case with Mazda for a seatback failure involving a 2004 Mazda 6. The client's daughter, a six-year old belted passenger, was seated behind the driver when their vehicle was rear-ended. The driver's seatback failed and fell onto the child. The driver's head struck the child's head and she was fatally injured. The driver and other passengers of the Mazda 6 walked away with minor injuries. We were able to prove the design of the seat caused the fatal injury and our clients settled for a confidential amount.

In This Issue:

1 **Featured Case:** Mazda seatback failure design case settled

Watch List: Jeep Grand Cherokee Tops Quarterly Vehicle Safety Watch List for 2nd Time

2 **Tip: How to Report an Unsafe Product**

Our New Video Blog

3 **Super Lawyer Announcement**

Congratulations Gabby Peterson!

4 **Contact**

Jeep Grand Cherokee Tops Quarterly Vehicle Safety Watch List for 2nd Time

The Safety Institute released their Quarterly Vehicle Safety Watch List this month, and the Jeep Grand Cherokee again took the top two spots. Plagued with powertrain issues, Jeep Grand Cherokees have held the #1 and #2 positions since November 2016. The Safety Institute monitors NHTSA investigations and recalls to let the public know what vehicles have the most concerning safety issues.

The powertrain problem with the Jeep Grand Cherokees correlates to the 2016 Fiat Chrysler recall of vehicles equipped with a "mono-stable gear selector". This gear shift created great confusion with drivers who exited their vehicles thinking they were in the PARK position, only to have

"...actor Anton Yelchin who was struck and killed in his driveway by his 2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee..."

the vehicle roll away, colliding with objects and people. Fiat Chrysler attempted to better educate the drivers on the new gear shift when they were investigated in 2016. After nearly 300 consumers reported roll away incidents, including the high profile death of actor Anton Yelchin, who was struck and killed in his driveway by his 2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee, Fiat Chrysler initiated a recall of over 500,000 vehicles equipped with this specific gear shifter. In addition to the 2014-2016 Jeep Grand Cherokees, the recall included 2012-2014 Chrysler 300s, 300 on Watch List and 2014-2016 Dodge Chargers.

GM's Chevy Cobalt is a regular on this list for electrical problems stemming from faulty ignition switches discovered by the investigative work of The Cooper Firm. The 2016 Toyota Camry also remains on this quarter's list for its unintended acceleration and speed control issues.

Visit The Safety Institute's informational website at www.thesafetyinstitute.org to view the complete list for this and previous years. ■