

## Featured Case:

### Jeep Liberty Safety Malfunction

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) is currently investigating nearly 105K Jeep Liberty vehicles due to a possible safety system malfunction that could affect the proper release of the vehicles' airbags.

The investigation is a result of more than 40 complaints regarding the 2012 model year (Jeep retired the Liberty model in 2012). The complaints centered around a detected malfunction of the Occupant Restraint Controller safety computer designed to detect when the vehicle crashes so it can deploy airbags accordingly. Service Technicians noticed the airbag warning light became enabled when the computer malfunctions. Subsequently, the light turns off when the computer is replaced. No injuries have been reported.

FCA (Fiat Chrysler Automobiles) announced it is fully cooperating with the recall.

If you or someone you know have been injured in an auto-accident, please contact us today for a complimentary case evaluation. ♦

Source: *The News Wheel*

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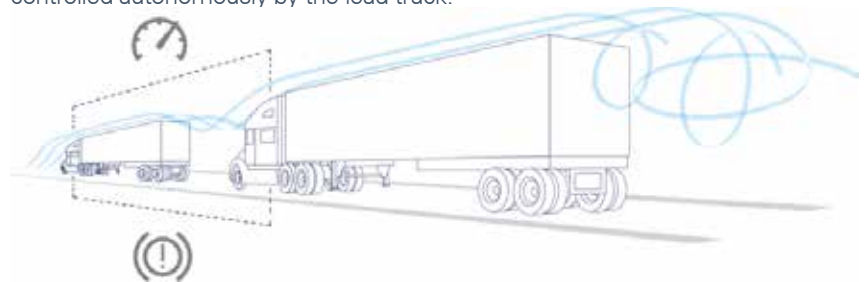
## Autonomous Driving: When Truck Tailgating is a Good Thing

By Doreen Lundrigan

Autonomous driving vehicles have been in the news more recently. As such, our future is looking much more Jetsons-like. While smart car technology is being implemented and placed in new cars, full automation is still many years away.

What is much more current and expected to be on the roads this year are partially automated tractor-trailers. Two companies are in the forefront of this technology, Peloton Technology and Omnicracs. Peloton develops active safety systems and is focused on bringing safety, efficiency, and data intelligence to the trucking industry. Omnicracs is a truck fleet management software company. Together, they are working on platooning.

Platooning is when several trucks drive in close proximity to one another, approximately 30-50 feet, to leverage aerodynamics and save fuel. The trucks are coupled electronically and the close distance minimizes drag. The first vehicle serves as the leader with each successive truck in the platoon connected and controlled autonomously by the lead truck.



The two biggest advantages that platoons have over autonomous vehicles is that there is always a driver in a vehicle ready to take control at a moment's notice, and they generally use technologies already in production and widely available. Those technologies include collision mitigation. A driver in a trailing vehicle could pull his vehicle out of the platoon at any time and all remaining vehicles would automatically close the gap between vehicles. Ultimately, they hope to be able to use the technology by having only a driver in the lead truck.

At first, the trucks will travel in convoys of two, then additional trucks will be added to the platooning once the public adapts to this new technology. Using the two-truck convoy will allow motorists to become accustomed to the platooning. If a driver slides their vehicle between two trucks less than 50 feet apart, the trucks will be programmed to broaden the gap.

One of the challenges to the self-driving technology on trucks is their weight, which is greater than a passenger car thus making it harder to control. Trucks also have a longer lifespan than passenger cars which creates more wear on the self-driving sensors. Another area of concern are unusual and often instantaneous traffic incidents. Although the technology is created for real-world experiences, those types of events may be difficult to program and predict.

Check out our blog for more on autonomous driving. ♦



# TCF Summer Interns:

## Kate Shilton

Kate is in her final year of law school at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. Kate has spent several summers in Georgia and this year she chose to spend a few weeks learning how American law differs from Australian law. She is putting her law school skills to good use by passionately arguing that Australian football is better than American football (we still aren't buying it) and settling family disputes on who gets to choose what to watch on TV. Kate, if you can get all parties to agree on that, we have no doubt you'll make a fine lawyer!

## Luke Mozley

Luke graduated in the top 10% of his class at Marietta High School this year. He grew up in Accra, Ghana and has been lucky to visit more than 25 countries with his family. He enjoys playing basketball, soccer, and football. Luke will be a freshman at Georgia State University in the fall majoring in Business Management and hopes to attend law school in the future. Thank you for joining us this summer, Luke!

## Zack Bohannon

Zack is a rising senior at Kennesaw State University. Zack is studying Business Management with a minor in Business Law. His goal is to attend law school at the University of Georgia and eventually enter politics. He enjoys watching debates, playing the guitar, and spending time outdoors hiking or kayaking. The highlight of his summer has been working at the The Cooper Firm and getting to meet Vice President Mike Pence.



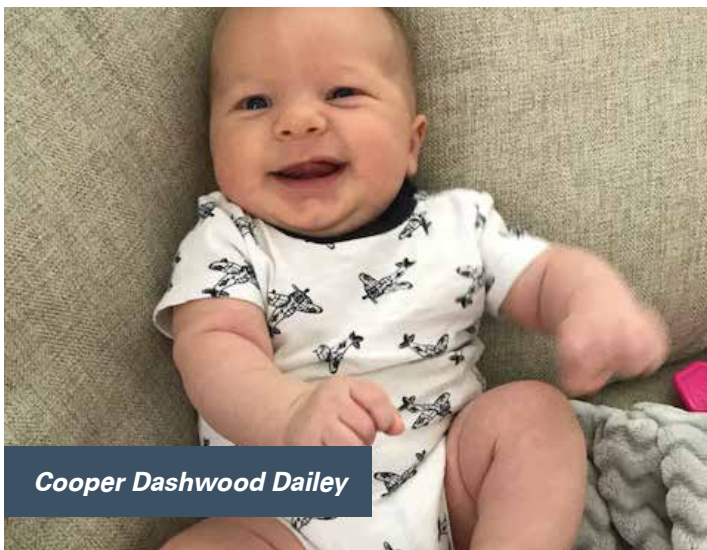
*Interns Kate, Zack, and Luke made great summer additions to the team.*

# TCF Team Updates

We are so proud to announce two new additions to The Cooper Firm babies club!

Lance welcomed his first grandchild this summer, Cooper Dashwood Dailey. Cooper was born May 9th to Michelle and Johnny Dailey. Both first-time parents and grandparents are overjoyed!

Doreen welcomed her 3rd grandchild on June 5th. Cameron Reid Lundrigan arrived healthy and on time much to the delight of his brother, Jackson, and his parents, Brittany and Patrick Lundrigan.



*Cooper Dashwood Dailey*



*Cameron Reid Lundrigan*



# Do You Smell Exhaust in Your Ford Explorer?

In July 2016, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) began investigating 2011-2015 Ford Explorers after 154 complaints were made regarding exhaust fume leaks inside the vehicles. Drivers noticed a distinct sulfur-like smell inside the car that caused concern about exposure to carbon monoxide.

A recent report on CBS featured Newport Beach Police Officer Brian McDowell. Officer McDowell was behind the wheel of his 2014 Ford Explorer police cruiser when he began to feel nauseated and noticed the beginning of a headache. Moments later, he passed out and crashed into a tree. He suffered a dislocated shoulder, fractured eye socket, and traumatic brain injury. He retains no memory of the accident—only the moments leading up to the crash. After reading about the exhaust leak reports with NHTSA, he believes he was exposed to carbon monoxide which contributed to him losing consciousness.

According to NHTSA, Ford issued technical service bulletins in 2012 (TSB 12-2-4) and 2014 (TSB 14-0130) to address seemingly related issues with the alleged exhaust leaks. Unfortunately, most consumers reported little to no improvement after the remedy.

If you have a later model Ford Explorer and notice the smell of exhaust while driving your vehicle, please stop driving immediately. This is an ongoing investigation so we encourage you to file a report online at [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov). If you've been injured, contact us immediately. ♦



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The Cooper Firm and Beasley Allen are combining their expertise to serve the catastrophically injured both locally and nationally.

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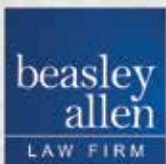
**Honda Airbags/Takata Airbags**

**Single Vehicle Accidents**

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“ My business associates, as well as my wife and I, were amazed as we watched the progression so positive and effective—and in a short time they had served our every need. This is not the first time our firm has greatly benefitted by calling on Drew Ashby and The Cooper Firm. ”

*Dwight Hurston, client*