

# VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY

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## Million Dollar Settlements of 2011

### WRONGFUL DEATH

#27

\$1,489 Million

**Name of Case:** Taylor v. Weber

**Attorney:** Bruce W. McLaughlin, Leesburg

**Summary:** A teenager driving a Ford Expedition came upon slow-moving traffic on a Leesburg road and swerved into the opposite lane of traffic, hitting a Nissan Murano head-on. It took 40 minutes to extract the driver and passenger – a husband and wife – from the vehicle. The husband was pronounced dead at the hospital and the wife suffered a head injury and multiple contusions.

The wife made several follow-up visits to her doctor to address continuing chest and abdomen pain. X-rays showed no permanent problems, and by her fourth visit, her symptoms were improving.

The case presented an additional issue of negligent entrustment by the defendant's parents. It was alleged that the parents knew or should have known about their teenage son's erratic and dangerous driving behavior. At the time of the accident, the teen had recently been convicted of a drug charge and was driving on a restricted license.



**MCLAUGHLIN**