

\$7.3M Settlement: Animated Drowsy Driving Collision

Client Ronald E. Johnson, Jr., Esq., Schachter, Hendy and Johnson, Attorneys at Law
Exhibits Forensic Animation
Online highimpact.com/case-studies/982



The High Impact team worked closely with our accident reconstruction experts to make sure that our animation of the collision was entirely accurate. It was a key part of our presentation at mediation and after our second attempt at settlement the case settled for full value. The animation was a crucial part of our demonstration to the Defense, and it added significant value to the settlement.

Ronald E. Johnson, Jr., Esq.
Schachter, Hendy and Johnson, Attorneys at Law

Brief

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that drowsy driving was responsible for 72,000 crashes, 44,000 injuries, and 800 deaths in 2013. We animated one of these cases after a driver fell asleep at freeway speeds and crashed into the back of a minivan in stopped traffic with a child in the backseat. Ronald E. Johnson, Jr., Esq., needed the animation to accomplish the following visual objectives:

- Demonstrate how much time the driver had to avoid the collision.
- Evaluate the driver's actions as he approached the point of impact.
- Show the mechanism of the fatal injury inflicted upon the young victim.

Approach

The animation opens with a plan-view of the two-mile stretch of highway to frame the amount of space between the driver and the stopped minivan. The drowsy driver's truck is animated speeding down the highway toward a traffic jam of stopped vehicles.

As the driver approaches the point of impact, we zoom into his perspective. We then cut to the perspective of an eye-witness driver in the right lane. At impact, we count the seconds from the collision until the vehicles meet their points of rest - to emphasize the violent power of the crash.

After establishing the driver's actions, we cut to a camera angle facing the young girl in the back seat of the plaintiff's vehicle, as the defendant rapidly closes in. At impact, the young girl's head smashes into the roof of the minivan, which we animate with deformation. We then fade in to reveal the depressed comminuted left parietal skull fracture, with hemorrhaging, and residual pneumocephalus that resulted in death.

Result

The animation helped Mr. Johnson persuade defense attorneys to settle for \$7.3M.



The animation opens with a plan-view of the two-mile stretch of highway to frame the amount of space between the driver and the stopped minivan.



Near the impact, we cut to the perspective of the truck driver in the right lane - establishing an eye-witness perspective.



At impact, we count the seconds from the collision until the vehicles meet their points of rest - to emphasize the violent power of the sudden crash.



After establishing the driver's actions, we cut to a camera angle facing the young girl as the defendant rapidly closes in. As the vehicle collides, the young girl's head impacts and deforms the minivan's roof, before the camera focuses in on her deadly injury.

