

Mother and Unborn Child Die in Crash with Commercial Vehicle Resulting in Multi-Million Dollar Settlement

In May 2006, a motor vehicle collision in Port Richey, Florida, took the life of

Jane Smith (not her real name). The accident also claimed the life of the unborn baby boy that Jane and her husband, John, had been expecting. All the excitement of the long-awaited birth of the couple's first child, and the love and devotion of a couple enjoying a happy and very successful marriage, came to a stop that morning when a commercial vehicle, owned by a local company and driven by one of its employees, smashed into Jane Smith's car.

Jane was born in Gainesville, Florida, and attended both high school and college there. She left Florida to obtain her master's degree in human nutrition and interned for a year at a veterans' medical center. After her internship, she returned to Florida to be closer to her family. In 2003, she began work with a health care center as a registered dietician, fulfilling her desire to work at a facility that enabled her to have one-on-one interactions with her patients. Jane was very well regarded by her employer, co-workers, and clients. Her supervisor found Jane to be very competent, hard-working, and supportive. They fully expected her to return to work with the care center after her maternity leave.

Jane was always extraordinarily close to her mother, more like best friends than mother and daughter. They talked every day by phone. When Jane first met John in 2001, they each knew that they had met the right person. They were married in July 2003, and the whole world came together for them. A pregnancy early in their marriage ended with a miscarriage, and they sadly thought that they might never have children together. Jane and John eventually decided to try again, and after some difficulties in conceiving, they learned that she was pregnant again. They were overjoyed at the news. Life was now moving along very well for the Smiths. They purchased a new home, closer to Jane's parents, and began preparing for a new life with their expected child.

The fatal accident ended all of the family's hopes and expectations. The family sought representation by Gary Moody and Anthony Salzman and later associated SDSBS attorneys **Jack Scarola** and **Jack Hill**. Working closely together, the two law firms negotiated a confidential multi-million dollar settlement. ■



In the spring of 2006, John Smith's world came crashing down around him. His beloved wife, Jane, and their unborn son were killed when the car Jane was driving was struck by a commercial vehicle driven by one of the company's employees. After some difficulties conceiving, this pregnancy was a bright hope for their future. They had purchased a new home, closer to Jane's parents, and had begun preparing for a new life as a family. Working with the law firm of Moody, Salzman & Lash, SDSBS attorneys Jack Scarola and Jack Hill negotiated a confidential multi-million dollar settlement.

