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A REPORT TO  
CLIENTS & ATTORNEYS  
VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

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NOTE: The accounts of recent trials, verdicts and settlements contained in this newsletter are intended to illustrate the experience of the firm in a variety of litigation areas. Each case is unique, and the results in one case do not necessarily indicate the quality or value of any other case. Omitting clients' names and/or defendants' names are the result of requests for anonymity.

## Drunk driver rear-ends vehicle causing severe injuries

John and Jane Doe (not their real names) were driving along a roadway in south Florida. As they began slowing for a traffic signal, a driver behind them abruptly slammed into the rear of their car. He then attempted to leave the scene, driving off at a high speed. Although both John and Jane were injured by the collision, their car was still functional and they pursued the fleeing driver as they called the police to report the collision. The fleeing driver's car had been damaged and it came to a stop a short distance down the road. Police arrived quickly and found that the driver was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Later information revealed that the driver had been arrested only one and one-half months before this incident and charged with driving under the influence and possessing various drugs.

The rear-ending crash had left Mr. Doe with a serious knee injury; his wife suffered a serious shoulder injury. Subsequently, the couple contacted Searcy Denney attorney, **Brian Denney**, seeking accountability for the crash. With the help of his paralegal, Nick DeBellis, they investigated the circumstances. The drunk driver and his insurance company responded with a refusal to provide adequate compensation for the injuries and damages. Mr. Denney filed a lawsuit. As the legal action proceeded, Mr. Denney persisted and finally reached an agreement with the defendant for a settlement of \$1,500,000 – an amount that was more than 12 times greater than the insurance company's initial offer.

Mr. Denney has represented numerous clients over his 25-year career who have been injured or killed by drunk/impaired drivers. No one should ever get behind the wheel of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. "Just don't do it." A father of four children, Mr. Denney is a staunch believer in keeping the roads of Palm Beach County and the rest of Florida safe for families across the Sunshine State. ♦

**Every day, about 37 people  
in the United States die in  
drunk-driving crashes — that's  
one person every 39 minutes!  
(National Highway Traffic  
Safety Administration)**

**See more information at  
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving>**

