

**Genesee County Bar Association  
2008 High School  
Mock Trial Competition**

*State of Michigan*

*v.*

*Terry C. Jackson*

Genesee County Circuit Court  
900 S. Saginaw Street  
Flint, MI 48502

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*Thanks to the Arizona Bar Foundation for allowing our use of their mock trial. The case has been modified and condensed to suit our mock trial format and applicable Michigan statutes.*

**STATE OF MICHIGAN, Plaintiff**  
**vs.**  
**TERRY C. JACKSON, Defendant**

**TYPE OF CASE**

Criminal prosecution. The State has charged Terry Jackson with negligent homicide in the death of Jane Anderson.

Defense claims not guilty.

Jury Trial.

Circuit Court (State).

**NATURE OF LEGAL CLAIMS**

The prosecution claims that defendant was operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe or negligent manner resulting in an accident that caused the death of Jane Anderson. Defendant claims Jane Anderson was contributorily negligent by not wearing a seat belt.

**SUMMARY OF FACTS**

Three students, Terry Jackson, Shaun Anderson and Jane Anderson, leave the campus of West High School for lunch in Terry's car. The lunch hour is only 50 minutes. West High does not have a closed campus and allows students to freely leave campus. Nevertheless, in an effort to discourage students from leaving, the school has a strict parental notification policy regarding absences or tardies after a lunch period. Parents are contacted when a student receives two absences or tardies following a lunch period in any semester.

Following lunch at a fast food restaurant, the students begin the drive back to campus. They are going to be running it close in terms of time. Jane Anderson says that they have to hurry as she already has one tardy and does not want her parents notified they left campus. Terry says not to worry.

The students turn eastbound onto Elm Street, which runs along the north side of the campus. The student parking lot is on Magnolia, which is on the east side of the campus. The speed limit on Elm is 25 mph for residential traffic. There is not a marked crosswalk at the corner of Elm and Magnolia but 100 yards from the corner is a sign that says "Caution Pedestrians."

As the car approaches Magnolia, Terry sees another car in the middle of the street with its left turn signal flashing. Terry moves to the far right to pass and make a right turn onto Magnolia. Terry also reaches to eject the CD which Jane, in the back seat has asked for, so she can take it with her.

Shaun yells "Watch out!" Terry looks up and sees that a student walking a bike is emerging from in front of the car with the turn signal heading toward campus. Terry slams on the brakes and swerves right to avoid the student. After the Suzuki hits and runs up the curb, the vehicle rolls over. The car misses the student but slides and crashes into the pole for the traffic signal. Terry

and Shaun are hurt but survive as both were restrained by their seat belts in the front bucket seats. However, Jane was sitting in the back and was not wearing her lap belt (she hated lap belts and they did not fit right with her skirt). Jane was ejected from the car and killed.

### **LIST OF MATERIALS**

Stipulations

Statement of Chris Jones [Plaintiff Witness]

Statement of Pat Martin [Plaintiff Witness]

Statement of Officer Kelly Demlong [Plaintiff Witness]

Statement of Terry Jackson [Defendant]

Statement of Shaun Anderson [Defense Witness]

Statement of Tracy Roller [Defense Witness]

Exhibit 1: Consumer Report data on rollovers

Exhibit 2: Drivers license report of Terry Jackson

Exhibit 3: Seat belt advisory notice

Exhibit 4: Accident scene map [to be provided shortly]

### **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The 2008 Mock Trial case is a hypothetical case. All names, descriptions, and events in the problem are fictitious. Any similarity to any actual event or to the name of any actual person is strictly coincidental. Most witnesses were created to be gender-neutral, except Jane Anderson.

As in previous years, all admissible exhibits and information relating to the case are contained in these case materials. Students are not allowed to introduce at trial cases or exhibits not contained in the case materials.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF GENESEE**

STATE OF MICHIGAN,  
Prosecution,

No. FYO 07-10546

vs.

TERRY C. JACKSON,  
Defendant.

**STIPULATIONS**

1. MCL750.324 Negligent Homicide  
Sec. 324. Any person who, by operation of any vehicle upon a highway or upon any other property, public or private, at an immoderate rate of speed or in a careless, reckless or negligent manner, but not wilfully or wantonly, shall cause the death of another, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the state prison not more than two (2) years or by a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or by both such fine and imprisonment.
2. Negligent Homicide – Crime of negligent homicide is killing a person through act of ordinary negligence which only becomes criminal when victim dies. *People v Tims* 202 MICH APP 335. Appeal granted 445 MICH 862, reversed 449 MICH 83 rehearing denied 450 MICH 1204.
3. Speed – Nature and elements. Issue of whether defendant was operating vehicle at immoderate rate of speed within meaning of this section does not depend upon the rate of speed fixed by law for operating vehicle. *People v Mihfeld* (1990) 183 MICH APP 609. reversed 436 MICH 853.
4. A decedent’s contributory negligence is not a defense to a negligent homicide charge, but the jury may consider the decedent’s or a third person’s conduct in deciding whether the defendant was negligent and whether the defendant’s negligence was a proximate cause of death. *People v Burt*, 173 Mich App 332.333 (1988), *People v Richardson*, 170 Mich App 470, 472 (1988), and *People v Clark*, 171 Mich App 656, 659-61 (1988) (evidence of the decedent’s failure to wear a seat belt was inadmissible to prove contributory negligence).
4. Defendant is charged violation of MCL750.324 Negligent Homicide.
5. The presiding judge will conduct the trial according to the Michigan Rules of Evidence. Trial will be by jury.

6. The jury will be instructed on the elements of the offense according to jury instructions.
7. The presiding judge will entertain no motions other than for an order sequestering the witnesses. Such a motion should be made after the introduction of counsel and before the plaintiff's opening statement.
8. All facts asserted in the witness statements are true and correct.
9. All witness statements are considered part of the case materials and may be used during trial. The signatures on the affidavits are to be considered authentic.
10. All exhibits included in these case materials are authentic and are accurate in all respects; no objections to the authenticity of the exhibits will be entertained.

## AFFIDAVIT OF CHRIS JONES

Plaintiff Witness

1. My name is Chris Jones. I am sixty-five (65) years old. I reside at 3103 N. Shawnee St., which is approximately three blocks from West High School. I have lived in my current location for thirty years. My two grown children both attended West High School.
2. The neighborhood around West High School is residential. There are longstanding neighborhoods on three sides of the school, across from Elm, Cholla and Cutler streets. Magnolia, which runs along the front of the campus, is a normal cross street.
3. The speed limit on Elm, Cholla and Cutler streets is 25 miles per hour. The speed limit on Magnolia is 40 miles per hour.
4. Over the years, the traffic around the high school has grown enormously. It seems like every student gets a car these days when they turn sixteen years old. Students always seem to be coming and going from the school between about 7:30 in the morning and about 4:00 in the afternoon. At my house, I often hear the squeal of tires and the roar of “souped up” engines from the students while I tend to my yard.
5. Around lunchtime, from approximately 11 am to 1:30 pm, the number of students racing to and from the high school is enormous. Other neighbors and I have complained to the principal and the school board about our belief that the safety of the surrounding neighborhoods is comprised when the students try to hurry off campus to eat lunch and then return. I am so concerned that I generally try to never drive by the school at this time. This means I am limited in not leaving or returning to my house during this period of the day, which is very frustrating. Obviously, sometimes I cannot avoid driving at this time but I sure try.
6. On October 18, 2007, I had a doctors appointment at 1:30 pm. I tried to get a later one but would not have been able to see the doctor for three days unless I took this appointment. As a result, I was leaving my house around 12:50 to 12:55 to go to the doctor. I went down to Elm and made a right turn to go down to Magnolia.
7. I drove to the corner of Elm and Magnolia and stopped to turn left onto Magnolia. Elm is a normal residential street with no line down the middle of the road. I stopped in the middle of the street to wait for the traffic on Magnolia to allow me to turn left. It was around 1:00 in the afternoon, probably a few minutes before the hour. The sun was shining and it was a pretty October day in Michigan. I remember I was thinking we were actually enjoying almost fall like conditions.
8. As I waited to turn left, a student began to cross Elm walking a bicycle. The child had been standing on the corner when I stopped and looked to see what I was going to do. Since I had to wait for the traffic to stop before I could turn left, I signaled he/she could cross. There is not a marked crosswalk at this corner. In fact, there are no marked crosswalks at any of the corners around the West High campus. Nevertheless there are signs on all the surrounding streets that say to watch out for pedestrians. There is one on Elm about half a block before the intersection with Magnolia.
9. At about this time, I don't know if I heard or sensed a car coming behind me. I looked up in my rear view mirror and saw a white Suzuki coming very fast behind me. My first thought was they are going too fast – I bet it is kids going to the high school. The entrance to the parking lot is on Magnolia and so students often go fast down Elm so they can turn

- on Magnolia and go to the parking lot. As I watched the car, and it all happened so fast, maybe a few seconds, I thought I hope they stop and don't rear-end my car.
10. I quickly looked forward to see if I could turn, and saw that the student and the bike were just now crossing from in front of my car and were almost to the corner. At that moment, I heard an awful squeal of brakes and tires. I was sure I was going to be hit! I closed my eyes. The next thing I knew I heard a terrible crash but I did not feel anything.
  11. I opened my eyes and saw the student with their bike still in the street just a foot or so from my car. I also saw the Suzuki where it apparently crashed into the traffic signal pole. The Suzuki was lying on its left side and was almost all on the sidewalk. I sat in my car and was literally shaking. I do not know how long I just sat in my car and stared. Several students came to the Suzuki and helped the occupants from the car. They all looked like students.
  12. The police and fire department arrived in what seemed like just minutes. I felt in a daze. I believe some of the students in the car were taken to the hospital. I do not know what happened to them.
  13. I spoke to a police officer who told me I could move my car from Elm. I told the police everything I could remember about the accident. It all happened so fast. The police took my name and said they would contact me if they needed anything else.
  14. In 2006, my daughter Katherine was seriously injured in an automobile accident in Lansing. She was hit by a nineteen-year-old MSU student who was intoxicated. Luckily, Katherine is fine now except for some lingering back pain. However, for a while, we thought she was going to be paralyzed. Young people never seem to realize the fact that an automobile can be a dangerous weapon.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

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Chris Jones

## AFFIDAVIT OF PAT MARTIN

Plaintiff Witness

1. My name is Pat Martin. I was born on April 12, 1990. I am a senior at West High School.
2. I am a classmate of Terry Jackson and Shaun Anderson. We are all in the same grade and have gone to the same school since third grade. I am a friend of Terry Jackson. We used to be really close in elementary school and our freshman year at West High. However, over the course of high school we have not done as much together as we used to. I know Shaun also but we have never been close friends. I also knew Shaun's sister Jane a little. I mean she was younger than we were so we never paid much attention to her.
3. I live about half a mile from school and generally ride my bike. I also generally go home for lunch because I can "chill out" and watch TV. My parents are not home and I have the house to myself. It only takes about 5-10 minutes to go each way depending on how long I have to wait to cross Elm because of the traffic.
4. Classes at West High are fifty minutes in length. They begin at five minutes past the hour and end at five minutes before the hour. This allows us ten minutes to go from one class to another. My lunch period is from 12:05 to 12:55. However my next class does not start until 1:05. Thus I usually stay at home until about 12:50 before hopping on my bike and going back. I have never been tardy returning from lunch this year.
5. When we were freshman, both Terry Jackson and I rode our bikes to school. Terry lives about a quarter mile or so further from the school than I do. He used to come over and we would ride together. He would then often come over for lunch. However, as I said, we do not hang out together as much since freshman year. Also, I do not think Terry has ridden his bike at all since he got his Suzuki from his parents for his sixteenth birthday.
6. Many kids leave campus for lunch. Most go out for food and complain about how little time they have. That is because they go to places that are far away for their "favorite grub." Also they sit around, talk until the last minute, and then are late if they hit a red light. I don't think getting back in time is so hard, but everyone thinks I am a "geek" for going home for lunch.
7. On October 18, 2007, I went home for lunch. I watched "All My Children" on TV and ate a cheese sandwich. I left as they began the commercials at the end of the show. I cannot believe how many commercials there are at the end of a show. They could add an easy three to five minutes if they did not have so many commercials.
8. I rode to the corner of Elm and Magnolia across from school. I reached the corner and got off my bike to cross the street. You have to be careful at the streets around the school because there are a lot of students driving around, especially around lunchtime.
9. I looked and saw a car stopping to turn left. I was going to wait until they were gone, when the "old fogey" driving signaled me to cross. I thought, "Alright, you don't have to ask me twice." I started to walk my bike across the street. I was looking no place in particular and just thinking about how I really did not want to go to my next class, which was Physics.
10. I was about two-thirds of the way across the street and just passing the car, when I looked up Elm. I froze because I saw Terry's Suzuki speeding towards me. I did not see Terry. I think he was bending down. I thought "Terry, don't hit me!"
11. The next thing I remember is seeing Terry looking up at me and the car swerving up on the curb by the school. The car seemed to bounce and start to swerve again. It was almost



- to me, and I still thought I was going to be hit. Then it flipped on its side and slid past me. It made a horrible screeching sound. I could not believe I was not hit, not even my bike.
12. I saw the car go by me and it just slammed into the pole on the corner that held the street light. Everything happened so fast and yet it seemed like slow motion. I ran across the rest of the street and threw down my bike. I ran to the car with a group of other students. I was going to give Terry a piece of my mind, he almost killed me.
  13. When we got to the car, Terry was helping Shaun from the car. Shaun was crying about her arm. Terry looked like he had a cut on his head. Shaun was yelling for Jane. I thought Shaun was crazy, I did not see Jane. However, some kids later called to us that Jane was in the grass back where the car flipped. I never saw her leave the car.
  14. The police and fire department arrived and took Terry, Shaun and Jane away. I told them I saw the whole thing. I was not going to tell them that Terry almost hit me, I did not want to get him in trouble. But the person in the car told them about me and so I had to come clean and tell them how close it really was.
  15. I don't know why the car flipped. I honestly thought Terry was going to swerve back into the street and hit me.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

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Pat Martin

**AFFIDAVIT OF OFFICER KELLY DEMLONG****Plaintiff Witness**

1. My name is Kelly Demlong. I am police officer with the City of Flint Police Department. My badge number is 4672. I have been a police officer for fourteen (14) years.
2. I was trained in accident investigation techniques at the time of my initial training at the Flint Police Academy. I have also received advanced training in accident investigation at the Michigan Department of Public Safety Accident Investigation Institute in 2000. I became a certified accident reconstructionist by the National Safety Council in 2003 following completion of the appropriate class and field work. I teach a course in accident investigation skills to new recruits at the Lansing Regional Police Academy.
3. I have investigated hundreds of traffic accidents during my career as a Flint Police officer and now am part of a special group that is called to investigate rollover accidents. I became a part of this special "rollover group" in 2003.
4. I received a call at 1325 on October 18, 2007 to report to the corner of Magnolia and Elm near West High School. Officers on the scene had reported a single car rollover with serious injuries and I was dispatched to conduct the accident investigation. Apparently, the officers at the scene believed that one or more of the injured parties may not survive and criminal charges might be filed.
5. Upon my arrival at the scene, I took measurements of the skid marks and evaluated the other physical evidence such as the vehicle itself. I also interviewed witnesses to the accident including but not limited to Pat Martin, Chris Jones and several high school students.
6. I also traveled to the hospital and interviewed Shaun Anderson. Shaun Anderson told me that Jane was sitting forward in the back seat asking Terry for the CD right before the accident. Jane was not wearing a seat belt because it always wrinkled her skirt. Shaun looked up and saw the pedestrian and bike and yelled, "Watch Out!" Shaun said Terry yelled "Oh No" and the next thing Shaun remembers they were rolling over and hitting the pole. Shaun does not remember Jane being thrown from the car.
7. I also interviewed Terry Jackson at the hospital with his parents' permission. Terry stated he was driving down Elm returning to school from lunch. Jane was worried about being late to her next class and having her parents notified that she had left campus under the school policy. Terry said he told her not to worry they would be back in time. Terry stated he felt they had plenty of time. He does not know exactly how fast he was going on Elm but is sure it was not faster than traffic normally goes on the street. Terry insisted they were not speeding. Based on my field investigation, I cited Terry at the hospital for speeding.
8. With regard to the accident, Terry stated it was simply a freak occurrence. He ejected the CD for Jane and was giving it to her when Shaun yelled "Watch Out." Terry looked and saw Pat Martin crossing the street. Terry says he put on the brakes and the car pulled to the side and hit the curb. Terry was turning back into the road when the car rolled over and slid into the pole.
9. From the length of the skid marks, the damage to the vehicle, the distance the vehicle rolled and based on my training, I calculated the speed of the Suzuki to be between 47 and 50 miles per hour immediately before the accident. This is substantially above the 25-

- mile per hour speed limit for a residential street and a definitely hazardous speed so close to a high school with known high amount of pedestrian traffic.
10. There are several signs around the West High campus warning motorists to watch and use caution because of pedestrians. The signs are large and a reflective yellow color. They read "Caution Pedestrians"
  11. I have investigated several accidents in the last few years around West High School. In the last four years, 88% of the accidents in a five-mile radius around West High School have involved students who were speeding. The police force generally places officers a few blocks from the school every few months to ticket speeders. It is hoped this will slow everyone down. I must admit however that many of the speeding tickets that are written are not to students. Many people use Elm as a regular thoroughfare and often travel at a speed near forty (40) miles an hour.
  12. Based on all the information I gathered, the physical evidence and my conversations with all the witnesses, I believe the accident occurred because Terry Jackson was driving at a greatly excessive speed and was inattentive to his surroundings which caused a situation to develop where there was a substantial and unjustified risk of harm to the people in the Suzuki and anyone around it. When Shaun screamed "Watch Out" Terry Jackson panicked and jerked the wheel. The vehicle skidded at a high rate of speed and hit the curb causing the right side wheels to lose contact with the ground. Terry then attempted to quickly turn back to the right, which caused the unbalanced vehicle to tip even more. Given the rate of speed and the jerky movements, Terry Jackson lost control of the vehicle. The vehicle rolled over and slid into the pole.
  13. I admit that studies indicate that the Suzuki has a high center of gravity. However, the vehicle does not roll over by itself. It was the rate of speed and inattentiveness that caused Terry Jackson to loose control of the vehicle. In losing control, there were quick changes of direction that may have contributed to the vehicle rolling over.
  14. As part of my investigation, I also checked Terry Jackson's driving record. In 2005 at the age of 16 he received a speeding ticket for going 48 miles an hour in a 35 mile an hour zone. Terry went to traffic safety school and the violation was erased. The ticket was given at a location about 30 miles from West High School in Flint.
  15. After completing our investigation, the Flint Police Department arrested Terry Jackson on November 15, 2007 for negligent homicide.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

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Officer Kelly Demlong, Flint P.D.

## AFFIDAVIT OF TERRY JACKSON

Defendant

1. My name is Terry Jackson. I was born on October 3, 1989. I am a senior at West High School. On October 18, 2007, I was involved in a motor vehicle accident while driving my 2004 Suzuki Samurai. I was eighteen at the time of the accident.
2. I received my driver's license following my sixteenth birthday. My parents said they would buy me a car if I took the full drivers education course at West High School. This class was both class work and actual driving. I thought the class was only for "geeks." However, I willingly took the class in exchange for my parents buying me a Suzuki Samurai. It was a cool car. White with a removable top. Since I got an A, my parents even threw in a CD player in the car.
3. I am really a safe driver. Mr. Maxwell taught the driver education course at West High School. He was a very strict teacher, especially in the actual driving segment. We were drilled in defensive driving skills and techniques. We even took a field trip to Auto City Speedway where a race driver friend of Mr. Maxwell's lectured to us. We were also allowed to drive a Camaro around the track. It was very cool.
4. I have received one ticket. A few months after I got my license I received a speeding ticket in Flint. I was leaving a friend's house and was late for getting home for dinner. I did not want to get in trouble with my parents since they have this thing about the whole family being home for dinner. I did not think I was speeding but the police officer said I was. It was terrible. My parents grounded me and took away the car for two months. I learned that nothing is worth getting a ticket.
5. I have driven to school since I reached sixteen and got the Suzuki. It is an easy drive because I only live about a mile away. I know this is really close but it is much better driving than riding my bike like I used to do. Also now I can leave campus and go with my friends to lunch. Over the last few years I must have driven to and from school about a thousand times. I could drive there with my eyes shut.
6. I really like West High School. It is a great school and a pretty campus. I am the Student Body President this year. I am planning to go to the University of Michigan next year and study astronomy. They have a great astronomy department. I am in the top 5% of my senior class. Until the accident, life was pretty wonderful.
7. I still cannot believe the accident really happened. Shaun, Jane and I went to lunch like we had done a hundred times. It was a normal lunch and we had a good time. We left to return to school in plenty of time. We are all careful about that because of the school's parental notification policy for absences or tardies after a lunch period.
8. I was driving back to school on Jefferson Avenue. That is not the way we went to the restaurant but I thought it might be faster going back. Boy, was I wrong. About halfway to school, at the intersection of Jefferson and Main, the city was installing sewer pipes. They had the entire intersection closed. We had to turn around and detour. This made us a little late going back. Jane was concerned because she already had one tardy and thought we would be late. I told her not to worry. I was sure we could make it.
9. We made good time on the detour and turned onto Elm next to the school. I told everyone to gather their stuff so we could all go to class as soon as I turned onto Magnolia and went into the parking lot. Jane leaned up between the seats and asked me for the CD we were playing. It was Jane's Beastie Boys CD and she loved it. She wanted to take it with

- her to help her get through World History. I laughed and told her she was supposed to be listening to Ms. Henry in World History, but I leaned down, ejected the CD, and started to give it to her.
10. All of a sudden, Shaun yelled "Watch Out!" I looked up and saw Pat Martin crossing Elm in front of us. I had been looking that way just a second ago and I swear there was nothing but a gray car with its left turn signal flashing waiting to turn left. I had moved to the far right so I could go around the car and turn right onto Magnolia. I immediately put on the brakes pretty hard.
  11. I do not think I turned the wheel. I only remember putting on the brakes. Anyway the car seemed to swerve to the right and bumped up onto the curb. I knew from class that it would be harder to stop on uneven ground so I was going to turn back onto the road and maybe try to do a U-turn and avoid everything. However, before I could do anything the car was airborne and we rolled. I don't know what happened. Once we rolled there was nothing I could do and we went into the traffic pole.
  12. When we hit the pole, I hit my head on the side window or support; I am not sure which one. It hurt some and started to bleed but that was the only injury I had. I was real lucky. My head was bleeding badly but it turned out not to be too serious. It looked worse than it was and I only needed eight stitches.
  13. After the accident, we had to stand up and climb out the passenger door window. I unhooked my seat belt and helped Shaun out. There were several other students who helped. Shaun was screaming her shoulder hurt. I looked for Jane but did not see her. I figured she must have climbed out the back of the car.
  14. Once I was out of the car, several people made me lie down. The blood was going in my eyes. I asked about Shaun and Jane and they said not to worry. The fire department was there very quickly and sent me to the hospital. They were concerned about neck injury and concussion and placed me on a backboard. Luckily, I did not suffer any such injuries.
  15. In the hospital, my parents and I spoke to Officer Demlong. I stated everything I could remember about how the accident occurred. I learned that Shaun was going to be fine, but that Jane was seriously injured. I was shocked. Apparently, she had not been wearing her seat belt and was thrown out when the car rolled. I thought she was wearing her seat belt. I always tell everyone to put on his or her seatbelt.
  16. Officer Demlong cited me for speeding at the hospital. I do not believe I was speeding. I know the speed limit is 25 miles per hour and I feel that is how fast I was going. I was not in any hurry and I was going just what everyone goes on Elm. I was paying attention to where we going. There was nothing in front or behind us except for the gray car. I do not know how Pat got in front of us. I never saw Pat until Shaun screamed. I did everything I could to avoid an accident.
  17. I know that there is a warning on the sun visor about the Suzuki sometimes rolling over. I saw the warning because it is impossible to miss; it is right in front of you. However, I never paid much attention because I never took it off road or anything. I only drove around town. I admit I never read the entire owners manual. I only looked in it if I had a question about something. That is what the salesman said it was for.
  18. I have known the Anderson family and Shaun and Jane since I was a little kid. Shaun is probably my best friend. I am so sorry about Jane's death. I cannot believe she is dead. I know the Anderson's think it is my fault, but I swear I was not speeding and I did

everything I could to avoid an accident. When the car rolled over there was nothing more I could do. I do not think I will ever be able to put this accident out of my mind.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

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Terry Jackson

## AFFIDAVIT OF SHAUN ANDERSON

Defense Witness

1. My name is Shaun Anderson. I was born on November 15, 1989. I am a senior at West High School. Jane Anderson was my younger sister. She was born on January 12, 1992. We were both involved in a car accident on October 18, 2007 at the corner of Elm and Magnolia. I was seventeen at the time and Jane was fifteen.
2. On October 18, 2007, Jane and I went to lunch with Terry Jackson. We all have lunch from 12:05 to 12:55. We left campus in Terry's car, a Suzuki Samurai. We went to a Pizza Hut a few miles from campus and had a deep-dish pizza. We like to go there for lunch but sometimes we are almost late getting back to school because they are sometimes busy and it takes 15-20 minutes just to cook the pizza after we order.
3. After lunch, we all got back in the car to return to school. I am not sure what time we left Pizza Hut but I did not think we were really late. We try to keep a watch on the time because of our school's parental notification policy. To try to keep students from leaving campus for lunch and to ensure they return, our school has a strict policy that if you are tardy or absent to the class following your lunch period twice during a semester, your parents are contacted. Jane had already been tardy once because her class after lunch was on the far south side of the campus and a long way from the parking lot.
4. Our parents have told Jane and me not to leave the school campus except to go home. I am sure they mean well but I do not believe they mean we cannot leave for lunch. The food at school is gross and everyone leaves for lunch, especially if you are a senior.
5. As we were driving back to school, we were driving back on Jefferson Street. At the intersection of Jefferson and Main Street the entire street was blocked because they were installing sewer pipe. We had to turn around and detour. Jane commented that we needed to hurry because she could not afford to be late as a result of the detour. She did not want Mom and Dad called by the school. Terry told her not to worry. Terry said that we would be back in time no matter what.
6. It was almost 1 o'clock when we turned on Elm. That meant we just had to drive by the school to Magnolia and turn right so we could go in the parking lot. Jane had moved forward in the back seat and asked Terry for the CD we were playing. It was her favorite and she wanted to take it with her. We were all talking how we should grab our stuff and be ready to run for class when we parked.
7. As Terry was ejecting the CD and giving it to Jane, I looked forward and saw Pat Martin crossing the street in front of us. I have known both Pat and Terry since third grade. I yelled "Watch Out" because I was not sure if Terry had seen Pat and I was afraid. Terry yelled "Oh No."
8. The next thing I remember is the car swerving quickly to the right and going on the curb. Then it seemed to jerk back the other way and roll over. It all happened very fast. We were skidding and there was a lot of noise. I was screaming and I closed my eyes. We hit the pole that supports the traffic light but missed Pat Martin.
9. When we hit the pole, I jerked violently forward. I was wearing my seatbelt with a shoulder strap. The strap cut into my arm and really hurt. After the accident, I could hardly stand the pain in my shoulder and chest. I was eventually taken to the hospital. I had a bruised chest, a broken collarbone and some ligament tears in my shoulder. The

- doctor said this is because I was twisted in my seat when we hit but the seat belt kept me from getting hurt worse.
10. After the accident, I yelled for Jane but she did not answer. Terry and some other kids helped me out of the car and had me lay down. I started to get up because I wanted to see how Jane and Terry were, but the next thing I recall the fire department was there and they made me stay still and then sent me to the hospital in an ambulance.
  11. Since the accident, I have learned that Jane was thrown from the vehicle when we rolled. She suffered massive head and internal injuries and died a week later on October 25, 2007. I cannot believe she is dead. I just don't know why this happened.
  12. I know that my parents blame Terry for the accident. However, it was just an accident. We had all driven that street a thousand times. I don't know why the car rolled. I do not think we were going too fast. We might have been going over 25 miles per hour but everyone does. It was a bright sunny day. There was no reason to go that slow.
  13. I know there are a lot of kids that cross Elm to get to school. I often cross Elm on my way home. Most kids do not even go to the corner. But we never get hit. This was a freak thing.
  14. I know Terry feels terrible about this. Terry would never have risked anyone getting hurt. Also the car was totaled. Terry loved that car. No way Terry would take risks of an accident. Terry is the only kid I know that actually took a driver education class at school. Terry said it helped with insurance and made him/her a better driver. I think Terry's parents required the class in exchange for the Suzuki. Nevertheless Terry took the class very seriously and got an A.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

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Shaun Anderson



## AFFIDAVIT OF TRACY ROLLER

Defense Witness

1. My name is Tracy Roller. I am the owner of Roller Accident Reconstruction. I am a certified accident reconstructionist. I also have extensive training and experience in biomechanics.
2. I graduated from the University of Michigan in 1991 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, BSME. I received biomechanics training in 2005 from the University of Michigan. I graduated from the Michigan State University Accident Reconstruction School in 1998 and received my certification in accident reconstruction.
3. I have received additional training in Automobile Vehicle Dynamics and training in Low Speed Rear Collisions from the Society of American Engineers in 2000. I also attended Accidental Injury: Biomechanics and Prevention training in 2002 from the Wayne State University, School of Medicine.
4. I was hired by the parents of Terry Jackson to investigate the rollover of their son's Suzuki Samurai on October 18, 2007. I am charging the Jackson's an hourly rate of \$200 per hour for my time and have charged them a total fee to date of \$7500.
5. As part of my investigation, I visited the scene of the accident and reviewed the physical evidence and skid marks. I talked to Terry Jackson and Shaun Anderson. I also reviewed the accident report filed by the Flint Police Department.
6. The primary issues to be investigated were: the speed of the vehicle, the sequence of events before the rollover, whether the rollover was foreseeable or preventable and whether the injuries and death of Jane Anderson were the result of Terry Jackson ignoring or failing to perceive a substantial and unjustified risk.
7. I accumulated the data necessary for my conclusions which included not only the items derived from my investigation but also information concerning the weight of the vehicle, statistical information concerning the center of gravity of the vehicle and comparable automobiles, and the opinions of the coroner concerning the injuries suffered by Jane Anderson.
8. Calculations were performed by me to determine, among other things:
  - The velocity of the vehicle
  - Sequence of events leading to the accident
  - The forces exerted upon Jane Anderson during the incident
  - The propensity of the vehicle to roll over on an uneven surface
9. As a result of my investigation and calculations, I have reached the following conclusions:
  - a. The speed of the vehicle prior to the accident was approximately 42-43 miles per hour
  - b. The normal speed of traffic on Elm during daylight hours is 40 miles per hour
  - c. A vehicle traveling at 25 miles per hour on Elm would be unsafe as it would impede normal traffic flow
  - d. The rolling over of the vehicle was not the responsibility or fault of the driver but is the result of an unusually high center of gravity which causes an unreasonably high likelihood of a rollover when the vehicle is sharply maneuvered on unequal ground.

10. It is my opinion that there was not a substantial or unjustified risk that Terry Jackson's driving might cause injury or death to Jane Anderson or anyone immediately prior to the accident. In fact, I believe that Terry would have successfully avoided any mishap if not for the manufacturer of the vehicle constructing it to have a dangerously high center of gravity.
11. Unfortunately, because the vehicle rolled over, the skid marks are not sufficient to determine whether, on the unequal ground of the curb and street, the vehicle would have been able to stop prior to entering the intersection of Magnolia and Elm.
12. Officer Demlong is simply incorrect in concluding that the cause of the accident is unreasonable speed. Further, without the rollover, it is my opinion that Jane Anderson would not have been thrown from the vehicle even considering that she was not wearing her seat belt.
13. There are warnings in the owner's manual and on the driver's sun visor stating that quick turns or such maneuvers should be avoided because it can cause the vehicle to roll over. However, I believe most people do not read or pay attention to these warnings. The manufacturer should not expect people to be careful about something that the manufacturer can eliminate by redesigning the car to have a lower center of gravity.
14. I acknowledge that neither the U.S. government or any court to my knowledge has found the Suzuki to be unreasonably dangerous. Nevertheless, just because it has not happened yet does not mean it is not true.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

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Tracy Roller