



TEXAS REPORTER[®]

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SOELE'S TRIAL REPORT[™]

VOLUME 97, ISSUE 11

WEEKS OF JUNE 23RD & 30TH, 1997

COMMERCIAL TRUCK/AUTO - WRONGFUL DEATH

(SETTLED CASE)
224TH - 96-CI-15486
BEXAR COUNTY
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
DATE OF VERDICT: 5/19/97

PLAINTIFF COUNSEL: LAW OFFICES OF RAY LEACH
from San Antonio, TX. By: **Ray Leach**
PLAINTIFF COUNSEL: Tom Hall from San Antonio, TX

DEFENDANT COUNSEL: SPAGNOLETTI & ASSOCIATES
from Houston, TX. By: **Frank Spagnoletti & Larry Wilson** (for
Venture Transport, Gwen & Woodrow Edwards)

DEFENDANT COUNSEL: THORNTON, SUMMERS, BIECHLIN, DUNHAM & BROWN, L.C. from
San Antonio, TX. By **Joe F. Brown, Jr.** (for Comet Signs)

CROSS-DEFENDANT COUNSEL: BROCK & PERSON from San
Antonio, TX. By: **John A. Guerra**

**TYPE OF CASE: WRONGFUL DEATH - COMMERCIAL
TRUCK/TRAILER COLLISION WITH AUTO** - On July 11, 1996,
Mary Cochran and her parents were traveling on IH-37 South when
their vehicle collided with the rear end of a flatbed trailer being pulled
by a Ford F350 truck. Pltfs alleged that the truck driver stopped her
vehicle in the middle lane of IH-37 after an overweight sign she was
transporting collided with the South New Braunfels Street overpass.
Mary Cochran was killed and her parents were critically injured. The
deceased had a 19-year-old son at the time of her death. After crashing into the flatbed trailer, Pltfs were rear-
ended by another automobile driven by Cross Defendant.

ESTATE OF MARY BLANCHE COCHRAN,
THOMAS JEFFERSON COCHRAN, RUSSELL C.
CRAWFORD, JR. & MARY ANN CRAWFORD
VS.
VENTURE TRANSPORT, INC., GWENDOLYN E. ED-
WARDS, WOODROW EDWARDS, AND COMET NEON
ADVERTISING, INC., d/b/a COMET SIGNS



\$4 MILLION SETTLEMENT

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INJURY: Wrongful death; Deceased's father required total spleen removal and other surgical repairs to internal organs; Deceased's mother suffered a crush injury to her hip

SPECIALS: \$74,000 past medical; \$50,000 - \$100,000 future medical expense for total hip replacement

VERDICT: \$4,000,000.00 settlement. Pltfs settled their claims against the trucking company and its drivers for \$4,000,000.00 at mediation conducted by Gary McGowan of Houston, Texas. The case remains pending against Comet Neon Advertising Company.

