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VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

Student Killed By Drunk Driver Results In \$1M Settlement *Color Brochure Showcasing Decedent's Talents Key*

The decedent was an 18-year-old high school student who was a passenger in a vehicle being driven by her friend when a drunk driver — a multiple DUI offender who had only recently been released from jail — went left of center and crashed into the decedent's vehicle.

The decedent suffered traumatic brain injury as well as multiple fractures. She was unconscious at the scene and never

regained consciousness. The decedent was "life-flighted" to MetroHealth Medical Center where she lingered in a completely sedated state for five days before dying. The decedent is survived by her divorced parents and two older brothers.

The decedent was a beautiful vibrant and artistic young woman. Settlement efforts were aided by a color brochure containing professional photos of the plaintiff,

and reproducing materials showcasing the decedent's school activities, writings, poetry and photo portfolio, all of which were provided to all counsel and adjusters.

Type of Action: Wrongful death

Type of Injuries: Traumatic brain injury

Court/Case Number/Date: Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, #CV-02-483566, June 2003

Caption: Goldsmith, et al. v. Nationwide

Insurance, et al.

Judge, Jury or Arbitrator: Judge

Name of Judge: John D. Sutula

Verdict, Settlement or Arbitration

Award: \$1 million settlement

Special Damages: \$73,368 (included funeral bills of just under \$11,000)

Insurance Carrier: Nationwide Insurance

Attorneys for the Plaintiff:

Rubin Guttman, Cleveland
Ann Marie Stockmaster, Cleveland