

Cravens v. Alisam Transportation

Opposing Counsel: Mark Midani; Lena
Laurenzo & Koby Kirkland

Death case – Defense Verdict

1st District Court Jasper County
Judge: Craig Mixson

Accident that happened in the dark in the early morning hours just east of Amarillo (suit filed in Jasper County as the county of residence of the truck driver). The truck driver pulled up to a four lane divided state highway from a side road after receiving his load. He was going to turn left. He looked to his right and let traffic go by. He looked to his left and saw a pair of headlights of in the distance coming down a slight hill and felt he had sufficient distance to pull out and make his turn. He began to pull out and looked left again and saw a second set of headlights off in the distance behind the first set and appearing to straddle the passing line. He kept going and looked a third time, did not see the seconds set of headlights. He was then turning left out of the other side of the median and felt an impact and saw the original first set of headlights pulling to the shoulder. The impact he felt was the second set of headlights belonging to the deceased who was driving an older Corvette while under the influence of marijuana and methamphetamines. The DPS officer cited the truck driver for failure to yield right of way and sought negligent homicide charges against him. The failure to yield right of way citation was dismissed and the negligent homicide charges were no billed.

The police officer who was hostile to the defense testified live and against the truck driver as did plaintiff's expert, a former DPS trooper who worked Newton and Jasper Counties for 35 years.

The Plaintiffs were the two minor children of the deceased by and through his ex-wife, his adult daughter and his elderly parents. Collectively, they were asking for \$1.6 million pre-trial. They asked the jury for \$7 million.

The jury found by a 10-2 verdict that the deceased was 100% negligent.