

VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY

Vol. 25, No. 36

February 7, 2011

www.valawyersweekly.com

MILLION DOLLAR SETTLEMENTS OF 2010

PERSONAL INJURY

#6

\$3.5 million

Confidential

Type of Case: Personal injury, wrongful death

Attorneys: John M. Cooper and Randall E. Appleton, Virginia Beach

Summary: Plaintiff's decedent was a passenger in a vehicle that was rear-ended by a tractor-trailer on Interstate 64 in Norfolk. Both vehicles caught on fire and the passenger was trapped inside and died.

The operator of the decedent's vehicle was driving slowly because of a tire problem, and the defendants contended that he caused the accident by driving so slowly without having his hazard lights on.

His attorneys countered that the truck driver violated safety rules and contended that his failure to take medication for diabetes contributed to his lack of attention that caused the wreck.

Decedent's beneficiary was a 5-year-old daughter whom he supported financially; he was not married to the girl's mother or living with her at the time.



COOPER



APPLETON