



American Honda Motor Co., Inc. receives defense verdict in jury trial defended by Abby Mathews and Larry Grayson of Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer LLP

Dallas, Texas, December 24, 2012 – Abby Mathews and Larry Grayson, partners in the Dallas office of Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer LLP, successfully defended American Honda Motor Co., Inc. in a products liability case. According to official court documents, the jury was asked to determine if Honda was negligent in communicating information about safe use of a Honda engine, and if that would have been a substantial factor in the death of the plaintiff’s family member. The case included several co-defendants and a complex set of facts about the death of a man while diving for golf balls in a golf course pond.



Larry Grayson

According to court documents, this sad case began when a company providing golf ball retrieval services sent an employee out to dive for balls in a golf course customer’s pond. The man was using a floating motorized compressor designed to provide air to divers in lieu of a traditional scuba diving tank. He was also wearing special apparel for collecting golf balls into large pockets to maximize efficiency and increase the number of balls that could be retrieved at one time. The man was found drowned in the pond, and his family sued on behalf of his estate. Defendants in the case included the man’s employer and three other companies who manufactured or sold components of the equipment used to supply air during the retrieval dives.



Abby Mathews

American Honda Motor Co., Inc. distributed the engine that was powering the compressor, and counsel for the plaintiff argued that the deceased man’s drowning was caused by carbon monoxide from the engine entering the compressor’s intake, which could have been prevented by printing safety warnings on the engine. Mathews and Grayson presented evidence that the engine was installed backwards and included a component to redirect

exhaust fumes that was not manufactured or supplied by Honda, but was added on by someone else after the original sale of the engine. The jury ultimately found that Honda was not negligent in the marketing of the engine in question and returned a complete defense verdict, clearing Honda of any liability in the case.

“Larry Grayson is one of the most talented and experienced trial lawyers at our firm. Abby Mathews has a unique ability to understand and communicate technical issues. We knew Honda could rely on them for a strong defense in court,” said Jeff Patterson, Managing Partner of the firm. “They each have a way of helping juries see through the complexities of a case and get right to the heart of the matter.”

Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer LLP is a Texas-based law firm specializing in civil litigation and trials, with offices in Dallas, Corpus Christi and Houston. The firm’s attorneys pride themselves on providing uncompromising excellence to their clients in a variety of areas, including products liability, commercial litigation, class action and multidistrict litigation, intellectual property, personal-injury defense, premises liability, labor and employment, insurance coverage, healthcare, construction, and dealer/franchise litigation. For more information about HDBD, visit <http://www.hdbdlaw.com>.

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SOURCE: Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer LLP

CAUSE/CASE NO: 10-02350

COURT: District Court of Dallas County, Texas, 116th Judicial District

JUDGE: Hon. Eric V. Moyé

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