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## **\$1.4 MILLION SETTLEMENT ANNOUNCED IN MEDFORD, OREGON TRUCKING ACCIDENT**

(MEDFORD/PORTLAND) – It was the top story one year ago today. Images in the news were jaw-dropping.

Driver William Geary (Central Point) was waiting in a line of cars on Biddle Road in Medford for the light to turn so he could turn left onto Table Rock Road, when he saw a double trailer semi-truck, traveling fast, make a turn onto Biddle. He watched as the truck's big rear trailer wheels left the ground. He remembers seeing the panicked face of the truck driver desperately trying to recover his out-of-control rig. Then, he remembers the sense of fear when he saw one of the truck's trailers tipping towards him. He believed he was about to die – and he almost did.

The trailer crushed his pickup truck, his steering wheel, his arms, and his legs. Geary was pinned in his car with the weight of the truck on top of him. For an hour and a half, he clung to life until emergency crews extracted him. Geary's family arrived at the scene but because of concerns over the stability of the semi-trailer, were kept at a distance. They, along with a crowd of onlookers, waited to see if Geary would live or die.

For the past year, the nightmare continued for the Geary family. Geary suffered a broken neck, spinal fluid leakage, a fractured wrist, and fractures of his left fibial and tibial plateau. His left knee is so damaged and disfigured, he will need a full knee replacement. Bill's medical care – and bills – mounted. In June, the Gearys filed a lawsuit against the trucking company (Express Transport Corporation) and the driver of the truck.

December 21, 2011 at 10AM in Medford, Oregon, the Gearys and their Portland attorney Tom D'Amore announce the details of the settlement that was signed by the Gearys this morning.

D'Amore noted that although the lawsuit will end, Bill Geary will spend years recovering from the truck accident.

“Most trucking accidents are preventable,” according to D’Amore, “and occur unnecessarily. There is a need for improved truck safety laws to protect the public.” US Senate Bill 1950, called the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enforcement Act, was passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee last week and awaits action by other Senate committees or other provisions of the Highway Reauthorization Bill. D’Amore encourages those who believe our highways should be safer to contact Senators Wyden and Merkley’s offices to urge passage of S. 1950.

Both attorney Tom D’Amore and the Gearys will answer reporter questions at today’s press conference. The Gearys wish to express heartfelt thanks to the greater Medford community for the outpouring of well wishes they continue to receive.

For further information, contact D’Amore Law Group at (503) 222-6333.

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