

PRESS RELEASE

A San Miguel County jury returned a 4.2 million dollar verdict in favor of the plaintiffs in a wrongful death case that concluded Wednesday in a Las Vegas courtroom. The case, tried before Judge James Hall, involved the death of Marcos Baca, a 21 year old college student from Portales, New Mexico in July of 2004. Mr. Baca was the passenger in a 2002 Hyundai Accent when the vehicle went out of control and rolled over on I-10 near Las Cruces, New Mexico. The lawsuit was brought by Mr. Baca's Estate and his father, mother and brother against Hyundai and alleged that the Accent had a defective roof and door that failed during the rollover and caused Mr. Baca's death from positional asphyxia. Evidence was presented during the trial that Hyundai claimed it used structural foam to reinforce the roof supports. However, using a cut-away of the roof pillars, the Baca's lawyers were able to prove that such representations were false. The jury deliberated for approximately five hours before returning its verdict and finding that the Accent was defectively designed, that Hyundai was negligent and that the defect and negligence was the cause of Mr. Baca's death. The Plaintiffs were represented by David Jaramillo of the Gaddy Jaramillo Law Firm from Albuquerque New Mexico, Bob Patterson, of the Watts Law Firm and Jim Hada of the CGT Law Group from Texas.