

## BOAT COLLISION

### Experts Investigate Criminal Charges Resulting from Death

A woman passenger was killed and three others were injured when a power boat collided with a personal watercraft (PWC). Robson Forensic was retained to reconstruct the collision, evaluate the injuries, and to determine if the actions of the powerboat operator caused, or could have avoided, the collision.

There were conflicting accounts of the incident. Our maritime expert reconstructed the collision and determined that as the two vessels approached each other, the PWC (the Give-Way vessel) was required to yield to the power boat (the Stand-On vessel). The PWC failed to yield and entered quickly and unreasonably into the power boat's path. Damage to the two vessels showed that the power boat executed an evasive maneuver prior to the collision, a hard turn to starboard.

Our biomechanics expert analyzed the injuries of the two PWC riders and confirmed the reconstruction. Both the driver and the woman's injuries were caused by direct impact and neither had any injuries indicative of coming into contact with the boat's propellers. This was consistent with a collision with the side of the boat, as our marine expert opined. The only way that the PWC riders' injuries could have occurred is by contacting the side of the power boat as it was turning to avoid colliding with the PWC.

The power boat operator was acquitted of all criminal charges.

To email the experts involved with this case:

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