

## **Judge acquits driver of DUI in criminal homicide case that resulted in the death of a pregnant woman**

A settlement was reached in a two-car collision that resulted in the death of a passenger who was 8-months pregnant at the time. Police on the scene claimed that the defendant was driving under the influence, while the driver alleged that the wheel came off of his van before impact and he was unable to control his vehicle. Robson Forensic was retained to determine the cause of the crash.

The collision involved a van and an SUV on a gently curved and level road. It was a rainy day, the road was wet, and the posted speed limit was 45 MPH. According to police reports, the van, which police determined was traveling at 82 MPH and whose driver was claimed to be under the influence of alcohol, crossed into the oncoming lane. The driver of the SUV, who police stated was traveling at 32 MPH, turned into the oncoming lane to avoid a head on collision and was hit on the passenger side, killing the pregnant woman.

Our crash reconstruction expert reconstructed the incident and showed that the van did in fact lose its right front wheel before impact and that there was no way the driver could have controlled his vehicle in that condition. He also could not have been traveling at 82 MPH as claimed in the police report and did not cross into the oncoming lane then swerve back into its lane as claimed. We showed that the SUV had actually swerved and crossed into the path of the van before impact.

The driver of the van was found not guilty of driving under the influence by a bench judge and pled guilty to some of the remaining charges.

To email the expert involved in this case: [Luka Serdar](#) with [Motor vehicle Accidents](#)