



Farmington Hills attorney hopes \$34M truck accident settlement will lead to safer trucking industry

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Attorney Steven Gursten has secured a \$34 million settlement for a serious truck accident case. But Gursten, head attorney at [Michigan Auto Law](#) in Farmington Hills, said the settlement amount isn't what's notable.

"There's a serious trucking industry safety crisis that's costing several thousand people their lives every year," Gursten said. "My goal is to change the entire calculus of how the trucking industry does business, where safety is sometimes looked at as an unnecessary added cost. The only way to do this is by aggressively litigating cases against truck companies that intentionally sacrifice safety for a bigger bottom line."

Gursten is a nationally renowned legal authority on litigating motor carrier cases and truck industry safety. He's pursuing his goal by co-founding a cutting-edge, national law firm that focuses only on the most catastrophic truck accidents: The Truck Accident Attorneys Roundtable. Based upon a new and innovative business model for law firms, the firm is comprised of some of the most experienced, respected and specialized trucking attorneys from around the nation, he said.

"Trucking companies are getting away with many egregious violations and are not being held accountable for the injuries they cause, because many personal injury attorneys do not have the experience to look for serious safety violations," said Larry Simon, the president of the American Association for Justice Truck Litigation Group, and an attorney who represents the Truck Accident Attorneys Roundtable in the states of New York and New Jersey.

"These lawyers handle truck cases like car accidents, but with bigger policy limits," says Daniel Buba, an Indianapolis, Indiana attorney, and immediate past-president of the American Association for Justice Truck Accident Litigation Group. "Because these attorneys don't find the safety violations, many unsafe motor carriers are able continue ignoring the mandatory safety regulations because they aren't ever identified. Therefore, the dangerous truck companies aren't ever held accountable."

One out of every five trucks are "out of service," meaning they are so mechanically unsafe that they have to be towed away immediately after being pulled over by law enforcement, according to CSA Roadcheck. Also, more than 5,000 people are killed each year in truck accidents.

Gursten has litigated more than 300 truck injury and wrongful death cases. He has also taught at more than 200 legal seminars, and is the president of the Motor Vehicle Trial Lawyers Association. His \$34 million settlement is the largest-reported truck accident settlement to date in the country for 2014. It's also the largest ever by a Michigan attorney, according to the VerdictSearch reporter. Gursten, together

with co-founder Michael Leizerman from the Truck Roundtable and Jan Stamm of Wauseon, Ohio, were Ohio co-counsel on the \$34 million truck accident settlement.