

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 2018

Contact: Pamela Sakowicz Menaker
Phone: 312-899-9090
Email: pammenaker@cliffordlaw.com



CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES
NEWS

Clifford Law Files First Passenger Lawsuit in Washington Amtrak Derailment

CHICAGO, IL (January 2018) – [Clifford Law Offices](#), a nationally recognized personal injury and wrongful death law firm based in Chicago, today (Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2017) filed a lawsuit in conjunction with the Luvera Law Firm in Seattle on behalf of an injured individual in last month's Amtrak derailment in Washington.

This is the first of many lawsuits that will be filed arising out of this tragic incident. Clifford Law Offices and the Luvera Law Firm have currently been retained by 10 individuals who were injured in the derailment. Today's lawsuit was filed in Washington state court, King County, on behalf of Pennie Cottrell, a passenger on car seven of the derailed train which was dangling over Interstate 5 before she was rescued. Cottrell suffered multiple broken ribs, a fractured clavicle and serious internal injuries.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is investigating the probable cause of the crash that initially reported the passenger train was traveling at 80 miles per hour around a curve that called for a maximum speed of 30 miles per hour.

"We have been contacted by numerous people involved in this tragedy because they were upset that representatives from Amtrak were contacting them, even in the hospital, to ask them to sign paperwork that they did not understand." said [Michael S. Krzak](#), partner at Clifford Law Offices handling the matter. "Our clients can not fathom how Amtrak 501 entered a curve at almost three times the posted speed limit according to information the NTSB has released." Krzak said.

Krzak went on to say, "As a common carrier for hire, Amtrak owes a duty of the highest care to the individuals it is transporting. Amtrak utterly failed in its duties and responsibilities to the victims on the train as well as those who were in the unfortunate path of the train as it left the tracks and crushed numerous vehicles on Interstate 5. We have filed this lawsuit as a first step in getting answers as to what failures led to this derailment."

For further information, please contact Clifford Law Offices Communications Partner Pamela Sakowicz Menaker at 847-721-0909 (cell).