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Jury Award Plus Interest Yields \$19,800,000 in Damages To Family of Doval Watson, Jr.

*Attorney Willie Gary calls verdict “justified” after a Horizon Coach Lines bus
driver caused Watson’s death in a 2013 crash*

(Durham, NC) March 26, 2015 – A jury awarded the family of Doval Watson, Jr., \$18 million plus interest in damages resulting in a total of \$19,800,000 as compensation for a deadly bus crash that took Watson’s life nearly two years ago.

Willie Gary, attorney for the Watson family, argued that the amount of damages were appropriate due to the negligence of charter bus driver Larry Brock, who veered off a Virginia highway after becoming distracted. Watson, 58, was ejected from the bus and died at the scene; his wife Theresa Watson was critically injured.

Since the plaintiff previously admitted fault, the three-day trial in Durham County Superior Court was simply to determine the amount of damages that were justified in the case.

“The award in this case is justified, given the circumstances behind the death of Mr. Watson,” Gary said. “No amount of money can bring back Mr. Watson, and it has been a long wait for his family to receive justice. Hopefully, this will bring some closure and expedite the healing process for all involved.”

Mr. Watson, an icon of the Chapel Hill community, and his wife had sponsored a charter bus trip to Hampton University each year as a means of helping a group of local kids with their educational focus. The middle- and high-school students from Chapel Hill and Henderson who were on the trip all survived the crash.

Gary is no stranger to seeking justice. Gary and his legal team are known for taking on some of the nation’s most powerful corporate giants, including the funeral industry. In 1995, a jury awarded Gary and his legal team a record-breaking, half-billion dollars against one of the world’s largest funeral



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chains, The Loewen Group. In addition, Gary is noted for winning a \$240 million jury verdict in Orange County against the Walt Disney Corporation for his clients who alleged that Disney stole their idea for a sports theme park. In 2001, a jury awarded Gary a \$139.6 million verdict for the Maris Distributing Company against Anheuser Busch. The record breaking \$23.6 billion dollar verdict in the Reynolds American Tobacco case was awarded in 2014.

PHOTO CAPTION: Theresa Watson and her family stand with legal team following the verdict.

All media inquiries should be directed to Tanya Wiley at 336-345-2628.

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