

Press Release*Writer—Steve Davis***WEATHERFORD JURY AWARDS \$3.3 MILLION*****Man injured at local truck stop wins damages from Oklahoma trucking company***

WEATHERFORD – A Parker County jury awarded more than \$3.3 million Friday to a California trucker who was injured in Weatherford in March of 2002.

Peter Muller, a truck driver from Bakersfield, Calif., was parked at a Weatherford truck stop when struck by a vehicle owned by Miller Truck Lines, a company operated out of Stroud, Okla. Muller was resting in the cab of his rig when the other truck, driven by co-defendant Tom Virgo, sideswiped Muller's resting vehicle. As a result of the collision, Muller suffered disfiguring injuries to his neck, back and shoulder.

Dallas attorney **Don Tittle**, who represented the plaintiff, said Miller Truck Lines and its insurance company favored Weatherford as a venue for the trial. "They were no doubt hoping that a small town, conservative jury would let them avoid their responsibilities," **Tittle** said.

But the jury, with Jerry Finch serving as foreman, gave considerable weight to the fact that Muller continued working after the accident, despite substantial physical limitations that became increasingly debilitating.

"This was a working man," **Tittle** said of Muller. "He continued working after the accident despite his injuries. He really did everything he could to rise above his physical disabilities caused by this injury. So he kept working for five and a half years while the trucking company put off their responsibilities. He waited on his day in court, and, when it arrived, was able to communicate to the jury everything he had gone through."

The jury awarded a total \$3,347,680. That included \$2 million for physical pain and mental anguish already sustained, \$1 million for pain and anguish Muller is likely to endure in the future, \$130,000 for lost earning capacity, \$100,000 for physical impairment, \$100,000 for future medical expenses and other minor damage awards.