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**STATE TRIAL LAWYERS HONOR PHILADELPHIA
ATTORNEY FOR RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT
DISTRACTED DRIVING**

Joel D. Feldman established Foundation in late daughter's memory to promote safe driving.

PHILADLEPHIA, Sept. 27, 2011 -- Casey Feldman was only 21 when she was killed at a crosswalk in Ocean City, NJ in 2009--a victim of distracted driving. Today, Casey's parents, trial attorney Joel D. Feldman and Dianne Anderson of Springfield, come to terms with their loss by promoting safe driving through the charitable foundation they established in Casey's name that also celebrates her life.

"Casey was a remarkable young woman," recalls Casey's dad, Joel Feldman. "She loved animals, people, and life." As a student at Fordham University, Casey made time to volunteer at the West End homeless shelter, Momentum Soup Kitchen, and Animal Haven Shelter. Casey's dynamic spirit and legacy of service endure through The Casey Feldman Memorial Foundation, which educates students about distracted driving and contributes to other causes that Casey supported.

For Feldman's efforts in saving lives by promoting safer driving, the Pennsylvania Association for Justice (PAJ) is presenting him with its Community Service Award. The award will be presented Friday, Oct. 21, at PAJ's President's Club Reception in Philadelphia (pajustice.org to register, or phone 215.546.6451).

In announcing the award winner, PAJ President Kenneth M. Rothweiler of Philadelphia, says Feldman and his wife are courageous examples of parents who turned their tragic loss into a force for saving lives. "Accidents and deaths attributable to distracted driving, such as talking on cell phones or texting, are occurring at an alarming rate, especially among teens," Rothweiler says. "PAJ is proud to honor Joel Feldman and The Casey Feldman Memorial Foundation for promoting safety and advocating for tougher laws to help prevent future tragedies like Casey's from happening."

Feldman is managing partner of Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman & Smalley, as well as an active trial attorney. He has represented a number of individuals in a wide variety of personal injury actions, as well as securities litigation and stockbroker claims. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont in 1976 and his law degree from Villanova University School of Law in 1981.

Last February, Casey's story was included in the "Faces of Distracted Driving" series of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The video, which was filmed by Feldman and features Casey's friends and mom, is the first to be submitted by a member of the public. Feldman used his experience producing client videos for the law firm to make a compelling message. Near the end of the segment, Casey's mother asks, "What will it take for us to change the way we drive?" It has received more than 15,000 hits on YouTube, and has been played in schools, driver's-ed classes, and at distracted driving events around the country, Feldman says.

"You have to start with children, says Feldman, noting that Grover from "Sesame Street" and Disney's "Cars" characters are being used to teach good habits early. Adults are not always the best role models. "Casey died because a driver took his eyes off the road for just a few seconds," says Feldman. "And after it happened, I knew I could easily have been that driver, having driven while distracted many times."

The foundation, working in conjunction with the National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS), recently announced a \$5,000 grant to a youth organization in Howells, NB for a "Wear Your Seat Belt!" campaign promoting teen driving safety. In July, it partnered with the Safe Driving Academy in Ocean City for an education program about distracted driving. The foundation is mostly self funded, but it has received some donations as word spreads through the web site and blog (www.caseyfeldman.org).

To combat distracted driving, legislation and enforcement are also necessary, says Feldman, noting that Pennsylvania is one of only a handful of states with no laws regarding distracted driving. New Jersey, by comparison, has a law banning use of cell phones while driving. And in April 2010, a law took effect in NJ requiring drivers to stop for — not just yield to — pedestrians in crosswalks. The law was spurred in part by Casey's death. But for Feldman the victory is bittersweet because even if this law were on the books back in 2009, the driver would not have stopped because he wasn't paying attention. "It would not have saved Casey's life," says Feldman.

The foundation also provides financial support to individuals, groups, and institutions whose interests and goals align with those of Casey. On the anniversary of Casey's death, Joel and Dianne, with more than 30 friends and family, volunteered at a no kill animal shelter. It also grants scholarships to students who devote their spring break to community service, such as volunteering to help rebuild in New Orleans or feeding the homeless. "Her foundation honors her life as much as it helps to educate about ways to keep all of us safer on the roads," Feldman says.

Throughout his ordeal, Feldman says he has learned some valuable lessons beginning from when he first heard the news about Casey's death, to the process of grieving (and how friends and colleagues perceive you while you are grieving), to keeping Casey's memory alive. He says some of it has made him a better trial lawyer. "We can understand our client's loss better," says Feldman. "We need to listen when our client wants to talk," he adds. "We are so uncomfortable with death and other losses—I hope to improve the dialogue of loss."

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