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June 24, 2016

VIA E-MAIL TRANSMISSION AND ECF FILING

The Honorable Martin Glenn United States Bankruptcy Judge United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of New York Alexander Hamilton Custom House One Bowling Green New York, New York 10004

Re: In re Motors Liquidation Company, *et al.* Case No. 09-50026 (MG)

Letter Regarding Update on Motion to Enforce Scheduled for Hearing on Monday, June 27, 2016

Dear Judge Glenn:

King & Spalding LLP is co-counsel with Kirkland & Ellis LLP for General Motors LLC ("<u>New GM</u>") in the above-referenced matter. We write to update the Court on recent events that concern the *Motion by General Motors LLC Pursuant to 11 U.S.C.* §§ 105 and 363 to Enforce the Bankruptcy Court's July 5, 2009 Sale Order and Injunction, and the Rulings in Connection Therewith (Veronica Alaine Fox, Claudia Lemus, Tammie Chapman and Constance Haynes-Tibbetts) [Dkt. No. 13634] ("<u>Motion</u>"), which is scheduled for hearing this Monday, June 27, 2016. The Motion was filed in early June 2016, ahead of other cases involving Post-Closing Accident Plaintiffs without the Ignition Switch Defect, because of the upcoming trial date in the Fox Lawsuit, one of four lawsuits that are the subject of the Motion. The other three lawsuits are filed by the same attorney: the Lemus Lawsuit, the Chapman Lawsuit and the Tibbetts Lawsuit. We note the following:

1. As indicated in the Objection filed by the State Court Plaintiffs and in New GM's Reply filed yesterday afternoon, the Lemus Lawsuit has been settled and is no longer subject to the Motion.

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- 2. The Fox Plaintiff filed a letter with the Georgia State Court yesterday (June 23, 2016), attaching a Second Recast & Amended Complaint, which, among other things, strikes any request for punitive damages, and suggests that it would be prepared (subject to certain conditions) to strike its alleged Independent Claim (duty to warn). The Fox Plaintiff's letter and Second Recast & Amended Complaint are annexed hereto, collectively, as **Exhibit "A."** If the Independent Claim is removed, that would resolve the Motion to Enforce relating to the Fox Lawsuit.
- 3. As indicated in the State Court Plaintiffs' Objection, the Chapman Plaintiff agreed to amend her complaint to address certain (but not all) allegation issues. That First Amended Complaint was filed yesterday, June 23, 2016. A copy of the as-filed version of the Chapman First Amended Complaint is annexed hereto as **Exhibit "B."** The other issues relating to the Chapman Lawsuit, and issues relating to the Tibbetts Lawsuit still need to be resolved by this Court.
- 4. New GM will be filing today a second Motion to Enforce the Bankruptcy Court rulings in connection with at least 10 other Post-Closing Accident Plaintiffs without the Ignition Switch Defect. There are common issues between the pending Motion to Enforce and the one being filed today. The hearing on this second Motion to Enforce is scheduled for July 18, 2016, and copies of this second Motion will be provided to Chambers by separate cover today. If the Fox Lawsuit would be resolved, that would remove the immediacy of deciding the current Motion to Enforce, ahead of the new one that is being filed today.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Scott Davidson

Scott Davidson

SD/hs Encl.

cc: Edward S. Weisfelner Howard Steel William Weintraub Gregory W. Fox Steve W. Berman Elizabeth J. Cabraser Sander Esserman 09-50026-mg Doc 13653-1 Filed 06/24/16 Entered 06/24/16 12:39:53 Exhibits Pg 1 of 64

Exhibit A

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Exhibits

BWP Butler Wooten & Peak LLP

James E. Butler, Jr., P.C.* Joel O. Wooten Brandon L. Peak John C. Morrison III Tedra L. Cannella Robert H. Snyder** David T. Rohwedder* Joseph M. Colwell Christopher B. McDaniel Rory A. Weeks

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Of Counsel

Michael L. Thurmond

June 23, 2016

VIA EMAIL and U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Judge Kathryn J. Tanksley Cobb County State Court 12 East Park Square, 3rd Floor Marietta, GA 30090

Re: Veronica Alaine Fox v. General Motors LLC and Atlanta Auto Brokers, Inc., State Court of Cobb County, Georgia, Civil Action File No. 14A-3468-4

Dear Judge Tanksley:

We have filed today, on behalf of Plaintiff Veronica Fox, a Second Recast & Amended Complaint. A copy of that pleading is attached. The changes were of such significance that we felt obligated to report this filing, and those changes, to you, and to explain why we took this action.

This pleading does two major things: (1) drops any claim for punitive damages, and (2) waives a jury trial.

We did those things in an attempt to defeat GM's efforts to avoid the September 13 special setting of this case. Let me explain.

On June 1, 2016 – the day after GM was required to identify its expert witnesses in this case – New York counsel for GM filed, in the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, a "motion" targeting Ms. Fox and two other plaintiffs with cases pending against GM in Arkansas and in New Mexico. *GM did not seek a stay of this case or of those cases*. GM contended that by seeking punitive damages, Ms. Fox was violating Bankruptcy Court rulings in proceedings to which neither we nor Ms. Fox were parties. (Significantly, this firm has represented plaintiffs in three other cases against GM LLC (New GM) in which the plaintiff also sought punitive damages. All three of those cases were filed after the 2009 bankruptcy sale. GM made no complaint in any of those three cases about the punitive damages claims. One, *Williams v. GM*, was settled in August 2015; the other two are pending in Cobb State Court, but neither has been specially set for trial, as has Fox v. GM.)

GM later complained that our count against "New GM" for failure to warn, based on New GM's own post-bankruptcy conduct, also supposedly violated Bankruptcy Court rulings. We totally disagree with GM's interpretation of past Bankruptcy Court rulings. We have retained bankruptcy law specialists at the Manhattan firm Goodwin Proctor to handle this matter for Ms. Fox. The hearing on GM's "motion" is set for Monday, June 27. We will be there.

Because we have now dropped the claim for punitive damages, the only issue remaining before the Bankruptcy Court, based on GM's complaints to that Court, concerns our count for failure to warn against GM LLC ("New GM") based on its own post-bankruptcy conduct.

We have also offered to drop that claim – the failure to warn claim against New GM – if GM will simply agree to a proposed Consent Stipulation to be filed in this Court that will avoid what we anticipate GM will otherwise do: interrupt the trial of this case with another "motion" filed in the Bankruptcy Court accusing us of trying to put in evidence which GM will contend – totally wrongly in our view – is contrary to Bankruptcy Court's rulings in cases to which Ms. Fox was not a party.¹

Our negotiations with GM continue. Our position is that there is no reason for GM to ask the Bankruptcy Court to decide what evidence is admissible in the trial of Fox v. GM. As the Bankruptcy Court ruled, in the context of the ignition switch defect cases, what evidence is to be admitted is a decision to be made by the state court judges.

We have waived a jury trial to help ensure that this case goes to trial on September 13. Since this will be a bench trial, the Bankruptcy Court Judge should not be concerned that this Court's verdict will be based on any inadmissible evidence or on claims that violate Bankruptcy Court rulings. I have written to GM's bankruptcy counsel stating:

"[I]t is the universal rule that, in a bench trial, the Judge is presumed to have considered only admissible evidence and to have based his/her verdict only upon admissible evidence and legitimate claims. Waiving jury trial eliminates any argument GM might make that there will be any claims made against New GM which are barred by Bankruptcy Court rulings. I'm sure GM's local counsel in Fox v. GM can assure you and GM that Cobb County State Court Judge Tanksley is not about to violate any rulings by the Bankruptcy Court."

We have dropped the punitive damages claim, and offered to drop the failure to warn claim against "New GM," because we represent an impoverished quadriplegic who needs to have

¹ We are not unaccustomed to navigating the shoals created by an automaker's bankruptcy sale. Just last year, in 2015, my son and I tried to verdict and final judgment a case against "Chrysler Group LLC" (name changed before trial to "FCA, N.A." (Fiat-Chrysler)) in the Superior Court of Decatur County, Ga. Chrysler had also been through bankruptcy, also in the Southern District of New York. We navigated those potential problems so well that FCA has raised no bankruptcy-related issue on appeal. That case is scheduled for oral argument before the Georgia Court of Appeals on July 12.

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her case resolved and therefore needs that September 13 special setting. We, and the lawyers at Goodwin Proctor, are convinced that GM's "motion" is without merit, but we can fight that fight only at the likely cost of losing any opportunity to try this case on September 13 -or any time soon. That is the result we seek to avoid.

We will advise this Court of any developments that may affect the special setting. We do not anticipate a stay of *Fox v. GM*.

Respectfully,

BUTLER WOOTEN & PEAK LLP

m Buth

James E. Butler, Jr.

JEBjr/bt Enclosure *Via Email to the following w/Enclosure:* cc: Jessica Rawcliffe, Esq.

Scott I. Davidson, Esq.
Scott I. Davidson, Esq.
Jennifer A. Asher, Esq.
Kevin J. Malloy, Esq.
Thomas M. Klein, Esq.
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Carrie L. Christie, Esq.
Robert H. Burke, Esq.
William T. Casey, Jr., Esq.
Tedra L. Cannella, Esq.
Robert H. Snyder, Esq.

UL COUNTY, GA

IN THE STATE COURT OF COBB COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

2016 JUN 23 PM 2: 19 STATE COURT CLERK-07

VERONICA ALAINE FOX,	*	
a standard of the second se	*	
Plaintiff,	*	
	*	
v.	*	CIVIL ACTION FILE
	*	
	*	NO. 14A 3468-4
GENERAL MOTORS LLC and	*	
ATLANTA AUTO BROKERS, INC.,	*	
	*	
Defendants.	*	ž.

SECOND RECAST & AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

COMES NOW Plaintiff Veronica Fox and files this her Second Recast & Amended Complaint for Damages against Defendants General Motors LLC ("GM LLC") and Atlanta Auto Brokers, Inc. ("AAB"), to amend the Complaint initially filed in this action as indicated below. Plaintiff Fox hereby waives jury trial and requests that the trial of this action proceed before this Honorable Court as fact-finder as presently scheduled, on September 13, 2016.

INTRODUCTION

a. On November 12, 2013, Plaintiff Veronica Fox was rendered quadriplegic in a rollover wreck in the General Motors 2004 Cadillac SRX she was driving. She was properly restrained in the vehicle. When the Cadillac SRX rolled over, the top of the roof literally came off the vehicle, and the remaining roof structure buckled and collapsed on top of her. Her injuries were caused by the resulting roof crush that occurred during the rollover. Her injuries were entirely preventable. Her injuries would not have happened

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had General Motors Corporation ("GM Corp.") designed the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX to provide proper protection for the occupants in a foreseeable rollover wreck.1

- b. GM Corp. knew and expected that its vehicles *would be* involved in rollovers. Conrad 3/18/16 Dep. at 23/21-24/3.2 GM LLC knew and knows that rollover wrecks can cause injuries and deaths. Craig 4/20/16 Dep. at 87/17-23.
- c. GM Corp., like other automakers such as GM LLC, had the resources to design and manufacture automobiles that would provide proper protection to the occupants in a rollover.
- d. But GM Corp. designed the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX with a roof structure that *it knew* would utterly fail to provide such protection: the roof panel was made almost entirely of glass; the roof was secured to the vehicle by nothing but glue, with no welds or other mechanical fasteners; predictably, the entire, glued-on roof came off during the rollover, leaving a gaping hole in the top of the vehicle and depriving the roof system of the support the top of the roof should provide; there was little to no lateral support going across the roof to help support the sides of the vehicle when the roof panel came off during the roll; and the remaining roof structure was so inadequate, it buckled and crushed onto Veronica Fox's neck and shoulders, catastrophically and permanently injuring her.

¹ GM Corp. and GM LLC referred to the subject GM Cadillac SRX design internally as the "GMT 265 program" vehicle. Conrad 3/18/16 Dep. at 7/23-8/19.

² Conrad was lead engineer for upper structure of the GMT 265 vehicle – the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX. *Conrad* 3/18/16 Dep. 7/23-8/3. He was employed by GM Corp. and also by GM LLC after the bankruptcy and government bail-out; nothing about the bankruptcy and bail-out affected his knowledge of the design of the 2004 SRX or his access to GM Corp.'s books and records. *Id.* 8/4-19.

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- e. GM LLC itself knew all the foregoing facts prior to Plaintiff suffering catastrophic injuries on November 12, 2013. GM LLC 5/31/16 8th Supplemental Responses to Plaintiff's First Interrogatories, "Amended Prefatory Statement."³ Conrad Dep. 8/12-19.
- f. The roof of the Cadillac SRX remained unchanged from 2004 through 2009. Craig
 4/20/16 Dep. at 9/19-25.
- g. GM LLC *itself also* continued to sell that same subject GM Cadillac SRX design through 2009, *and after* the June 2009 bankruptcy sale. GM LLC 5/31/16 8th Supplemental Responses to Plaintiff's First Interrogatories, "Amended Prefatory Statement;"⁴ *id.* at response to Interrogatory 1.⁵ GM LLC itself sold 648 of the subject Cadillac SRX vehicles (2004-2009 models) in July 2009 after the bankruptcy sale.⁶ The 2010 model year Cadillac SRX, which replaced the subject vehicle, did not come to market until after the bankruptcy sale.⁷ The 2010 model year Cadillac SRX had a roof three times as strong as the 2004-09 models.
- h. GM Corp. knew precisely the danger that caused Plaintiff's injuries, because a virtually identical rollover wreck involving the very same Cadillac SRX with glass roof had occurred at the GM Proving Grounds on December 16, 2004, when the vehicle was

³ "GM LLC did not design, develop, test, manufacture or assemble the subject 2004 Cadillac SRX. However, GM LLC has acquired documents and other information from Motors Liquidation Company, f/k/a General Motors Corporation, regarding the design and development of the subject 2004 Cadillac SRX."

⁴ "The roof structure and sunroof glass/glazing that is substantially similar to the 2004 Cadillac SRX was introduced on the GMT265 platform for the 2004 model year and continued in production through the 2009 model year."

⁵ "In 2010, GM LLC introduced a redesigned new generation of crossover sport utility vehicle based off the Epsilon and Theta architecture, known internally at GM as the GMT166 program." ⁶ See Exhibit 1 hereto (GM LLC press release dated 8/03/09).

⁷ See Exhibit 2 hereto (GM LLC press release dated 8/11/09 stating that the new SRX was "coming to market this month").

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driven by a GM engineer with two other GM engineers as passengers. Craig Dep. at 10/1-12/10, 13/1-3, 60/4-9, 61/19-24. The Cadillac SRX involved in that rollover slid sideways, rolled several times, the glass roof flew off, and the remaining roof structure buckled and deformed into the occupant compartment – just as happened to Plaintiff on November 12, 2013. One GM engineer was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Two of the GM engineers were admitted to the hospital. Blood splattered all over the inside of the car. By the Grace of God and good luck, no one was injured as badly as was Veronica. But GM's Legal Department investigated that wreck at GM's own proving grounds, and had the wreck professionally reconstructed. That was *nine years* before Ms. Fox's wreck: a rollover at GM's own proving grounds, the same car, with the same roof, producing virtually identical damage to the roof and roof structure.

- After the bankruptcy sale in June, 2009, all those engineers continued to be employed by GM LLC, as did others with knowledge of that December 16, 2004 wreck at GM's own Proving Grounds. GM LLC possesses all the knowledge regarding that proving grounds wreck previously possessed by GM. Corp., including all the documentary evidence previously possessed by GM Corp. GM LLC has, in fact, itself produced some of that evidence to Plaintiff in this case.⁸
- j. As early as 2006 GM Corp. was already redesigning the roof to make it stronger an effort that GM LLC continued after the bankruptcy sale, resulting in the 2010 model year

⁸ There were, in fact, five rollover wrecks involving the subject car at GM's own proving grounds – the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX. (GM referred to that car as the "GMT 265" vehicle.) GM's own engineer, Lou Conrad, who was "lead engineer" for the roof of the GMT 265 car (Conrad 3/18/16 Dep. at 7/23-8/3), has testified under oath that in his 30 years with GM he'd never heard of any other GM vehicle that rolled five times at GM's own proving grounds. *Id.* at 28/15-22.

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Cadillac SRX roof that was three times stronger. McLean 5/4/16 Dep. at 12/4-13/25. That redesign work was completed by GM LLC after the bankruptcy sale, using the same engineers and other employees who had started that work when employed by GM Corp. and using the same facilities.

- k. GM LLC concedes that it "assumed liability" for defects in the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX as part of the sale agreement it entered in 2009.
- The 2004 Cadillac SRX that caused Plaintiff's injuries was first sold more than 10 years prior to Plaintiff's injuries on November 12, 2013, and so this action is subject to Georgia's "statute of repose." See O.C.G.A. §51-1-11.
- m. That statute of repose applies to "manufacturers" of an item "sold as new property"
 (O.C.G.A. §51-1-11(b)(1)) and provides a "limitation" on the "manufacturer's" liability if
 the product is more than ten years old (O.C.G.A. §51-1-11(b)(2)), subject to four explicit
 exceptions. (O.C.G.A. §51-1-11(c)). The statute of repose is available to GM Corp., as
 the "manufacturer." But GM LLC contends it is not a "manufacturer" with respect to the
 subject product. GM LLC may assert the statute of repose only on behalf of GM Corp.,
 in an effort to escape GM LLC's assumption of liability.
- n. Of the four exceptions to the "limitation" to a "manufacturer's" liability for products over ten years old, three apply to this case. The statute of repose excepts from the ten-year "limitation" on liability those actions "arising out of conduct which manifests a . . . reckless, *or* wanton disregard for life of property"⁹ *or* a "manufacturer's" failure "to warn

⁹ The statute also refers to "willful" conduct. Plaintiff does not contend that the application of the statute of repose is defeated by "willful" conduct.

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of a danger arising from use of the product once that danger becomes known to the manufacturer." O.C.G.A. §51-1-11(c).

- o. The conduct of GM Corp. in manufacturing the subject product was both "reckless" and "wanton."
- p. The dangers posed by the subject product were known to GM Corp. Those dangers were also known to GM LLC. After the bankruptcy, GM LLC continued to employ the same persons who had knowledge of the dangers of the subject product; GM LLC took possession of all documents previously possessed by GM Corp. regarding those dangers; GM LLC continued the work started by GM Corp. to strengthen the roof of the Cadillac SRX; GM LLC continued to sell the subject Cadillac SRX after the bankruptcy sale. In sum, at all times from June 26, 2009 until November 12, 2013 when Plaintiff's injuries were sustained, GM LLC possessed all the same knowledge previously possessed by GM Corp. Neither GM Corp. nor GM LLC warned of those dangers. That negligent failure was itself both "reckless" and "wanton."
- q. As to Defendant GM LLC, this lawsuit involves a pre-bankruptcy vehicle that GM LLC continued to sell post-bankruptcy with knowledge that it had a dangerously weak roof, and a post-bankruptcy crash. GM LLC is the only "General Motors" defendant being sued because GM Corp. ("Old GM") no longer exists. Consistent with Bankruptcy Court rulings, Plaintiffs make no allegations whatsoever that GM LLC is liable as a "successor" of Old GM.

6

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I. PARTIES, JURISDICTION, VENUE, & SERVICE OF PROCESS

1.

Plaintiff Veronica Fox is a citizen and resident of the State of Georgia. Plaintiff is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.

2.

Defendant GM LLC is a foreign corporation organized and incorporated under the laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business located at 300 Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan 48265. GM LLC, like GM Corp., is engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing, marketing, promoting, advertising, distributing, and selling automobiles, trucks, SUVs, and other types of vehicles in the State of Georgia, throughout the United States, and elsewhere.

3.

GM LLC is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court because it transacts business in this State and maintains a registered agent in this State: CSC of Cobb County, Inc., 192 Anderson Street S.E., Suite 125, Marietta, Georgia 30060. GM LLC may be served with legal process there.

4.

Venue is proper in Cobb County as to Defendant GM LLC under O.C.G.A. § 14-2-510 and GA. CONST. art. VI, § 2, ¶ VI, because Cobb County is where Defendant GM LLC maintains a registered agent.

5.

Defendant AAB is a domestic corporation organized and incorporated under the laws of Georgia, with its principal place of business located at P.O. Box 3262, Alpharetta, Georgia

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30023. AAB is engaged in the business of buying, selling, and inspecting used automobiles in the State of Georgia.

6.

Defendant AAB is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court because it is incorporated in this State, it transacts business in this State, and maintains a registered agent in this State: Joe Milligan, 487 Cobb Parkway, SE, Marietta, Georgia 30060. AAB may be served with legal process there.

7.

Venue is proper in Cobb County as to Defendant AAB under O.C.G.A. § 14-2-510 and GA. CONST. art. VI, § 2, ¶ VI, because Cobb County is where Defendant AAB maintains a registered agent and under GA. CONST. art. 6, § 2, ¶ IV because it is a joint tortfeasor with Defendant GM LLC.

II. OPERATIVE FACTS

8.

On November 12, 2013, at around 2:00 a.m., Veronica Alaine Fox was the restrained driver of a 2004 Cadillac SRX designed, manufactured, and sold by GM Corp. (VIN: 1GYDE63A740113793) ("the subject SRX" or "subject vehicle"). Carl Coward was a restrained passenger in the front right seat. The subject Cadillac SRX was traveling north on I-285, past the intersection with Martin Luther King Dr.

9.

Plaintiff Veronica Fox was properly seated in the driver's seat, wearing her seat belt.

10.

While traveling down the highway, the Cadillac SRX left the roadway. The SRX rolled

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over and came to rest off the shoulder north of Martin Luther King Dr.

11.

GM Corp. manufactured, designed, marketed, and distributed the subject vehicle with a defective roof which was unable to withstand the forces of this foreseeable and survivable event. As the direct and proximate result of the defects in the roof structure of the subject vehicle, the roof panel came completely off during the wreck and the remaining structure crushed down on Plaintiff Veronica Fox during this incident, rendering her a quadriplegic.

12.

Defendant AAB inspected the vehicle and sold it to Plaintiff shortly before the wreck occurred. Defendant AAB had a duty to warn Veronica Fox of the danger posed by the Cadillac SRX roof. AAB breached that duty. That breach was negligence.

13.

The defects and failures of the subject vehicle caused Veronica Fox's injuries.

14.

As a direct and proximate result of the subject vehicle's defects Plaintiff Veronica Fox endured, continues to endure, and will endure in the future physical and emotional pain and suffering.

15.

GM Corp. designed, tested, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and sold the subject Cadillac SRX, thereby placing it into the stream of commerce.

16.

The subject Cadillac SRX was defective, unreasonably dangerous, and not fit for its ordinary use when manufactured as well as at the time of the subject incident because (a) the

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design GM Corp. chose for the roof structure did not offer proper protection to occupants in foreseeable crashes; (b) the risks of GM Corp.'s chosen design outweighed the utility of the design; and (c) GM Corp. did not implement safer, feasible, and practicable alternative designs that would have prevented Plaintiff Veronica Fox's injuries.

17.

GM Corp. could have reasonably foreseen and did, in fact, foresee the occurrence of rollovers such as the one described in this Complaint.

18.

But for GM Corp.'s negligent and defective design of the Cadillac SRX, and the vehicle's failure to offer proper crash protection to occupants in foreseeable wrecks, Veronica Fox would not have been seriously injured in this wreck.

19.

At the time the subject Cadillac SRX was manufactured GM Corp. had actual knowledge that when a roof lacks sufficient structural crashworthiness, occupants are highly vulnerable to being injured, paralyzed, or killed in a rollover.

20.

Despite its knowledge set forth above, GM Corp. consciously designed the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX so that occupants would be subject to injury from roof crush.

21.

Despite knowing at the time the subject Cadillac SRX was manufactured that safer alternative designs were technologically feasible, economically practicable, and fundamentally safer, GM Corp. recklessly and wantonly chose not to implement any of those alternative designs in the subject Cadillac SRX and instead chose a design GM Corp. knew would result in

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preventable injuries and deaths in foreseeable wrecks.

22.

GM Corp.'s reckless and wanton conduct constituted disregard for the life and safety of Veronica Fox, and the lives and safety of the motoring public generally.

23.

In 2009, after GM Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, Defendant GM LLC purchased assets of GM Corp., including GM Corp.'s books and records.

24.

Defendant GM LLC concedes that as part of its 2009 purchase of GM Corp., GM LLC expressly assumed liability for product liability claims against GM Corp. that arose after the bankruptcy sale, as set forth in the Sale Agreement and rulings by the Bankruptcy Court.

25.

After the bankruptcy sale, Defendant GM LLC itself continued to employ engineers who designed the roof for the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX and others with knowledge of that design, its defects, and its dangers. Conrad 3/18/16 Dep. at 7/18-8/19. After the bankruptcy sale, Defendant GM LLC continued to employ those persons with specific knowledge of the very similar rollover wreck that occurred at GM's own Proving Grounds on December 16, 2004, including the GM engineer who was driving the same car with glass roof during that wreck, and others, including those from GM's Legal Department who investigated that wreck. *See, e.g.,* Craig 4/20/16 Dep. at 7/16-25. Defendant GM LLC has admitted that after the bankruptcy sale it possessed all relevant knowledge, books, and records regarding the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX roof design. GM LLC 5-31-16 8th Supplemental Responses to Plaintiff's First Interrogatories, "Amended Prefatory Statement (*see* n.2, *supra*). In sum, GM LLC acquired all knowledge

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regarding the defective roof of the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX and its dangers previously possessed by GM Corp. After the 2009 bankruptcy sale Defendant GM LLC itself continued to sell the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX with the subject defective roof. GM LLC 5-31-16 8th Supplemental Responses to Plaintiff's First Interrogatories, "Amended Prefatory Statement;" *Id.* Response to Interrogatory 1.

26.

For the foregoing reasons, based on its own knowledge, Defendant GM LLC not only could have reasonably foreseen, but did in fact foresee, the occurrence of rollovers with roof crush such as the one that caused catastrophic injuries to Plaintiff on November 12, 2013.

27.

In addition to the foregoing, Defendant GM LLC has had actual knowledge that when a roof lacks sufficient structural crashworthiness, occupants are highly vulnerable to being injured, paralyzed, or killed in a rollover as a result of its own modification to the Cadillac SRX roof and its own testing and analysis of the Cadillac SRX roof.

28.

In addition to the foregoing, Defendant GM LLC has had actual knowledge that the roof of the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX was unreasonably dangerous and defective as a result of its own testing and analysis of the Cadillac SRX roof.

28.

GM assumed the responsibility and duty to warn dealers, consumers, and the motoring public regarding defects in vehicles manufactured by GM Corp. In fact, GM LLC sent a letter to Plaintiff Fox warning her that her Cadillac SRX had a defective ignition switch. Plaintiff Fox did not received that letter until after she was injured on November 12, 2013.

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29.

Because of its own knowledge, the notice to it described above, and GM's decision to undertake the duty to warn dealers, consumers, and the motoring public regarding defects in vehicles manufactured by GM Corp., GM LLC had a legal duty after the bankruptcy sale to warn *of that danger known to GM LLC* – the danger that the roof of a 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX with glass roof would collapse in a foreseeable rollover and cause injury or death to occupants.

30.

Despite the foregoing knowledge and notice, Defendant GM LLC failed to warn Plaintiff and others of a known danger. That failure was negligent.

31.

Defendant GM LLC's failure to warn of a known danger was itself also reckless and wanton conduct in disregard for the life and safety of the public, including Veronica Fox.

32.

But for the defects in the roof of the 2004 Cadillac SRX and the failures to warn referenced herein. Plaintiff Veronica Fox would not have been seriously injured in this wreck.

33.

As a direct and proximate result of defects in the roof of the 2004 Cadillac SRX and the failures to warn referenced herein, Plaintiff Veronica Fox endured, continues to endure, and will endure physical and emotional pain and suffering and disability for the rest of her life.

34.

No person other than Defendant GM LLC and Defendant AAB is liable for the injuries and damages sustained by Veronica Fox.

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35.

STATUTE OF REPOSE

- (a) The 2004 Cadillac SRX that caused Plaintiff's injuries was first sold more than 10 years prior to Plaintiff's injuries on November 12, 2013, and so this action is subject to the "limitation" stated in Georgia's "statute of repose. OCGA §51-1-11(b)(2).
- (b) However, the statute of repose four express exceptions to the "limitation" onliability provided in that statute. Three of those exceptions apply to this case.
 - The statute of repose excepts from the ten-year "limitation" on liability actions "arising out of conduct which manifests a . . . reckless *or* wanton disregard for life of property."¹⁰
 - The statute of repose also excepts from the ten-year "limitation" on liability a "manufacturer's" failure "to warn of a danger arising from use of the product once that danger becomes known to the manufacturer."
 OCGA §51-1-11(c).
- (c) The conduct of GM Corp. in manufacturing and selling the subject product was both "reckless" and "wanton."
- (d) The dangers of the weak roof in the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX vehicles were well known to GM Corp., for all the reasons stated in the foregoing paragraphs. GM Corp. breached its duty to warn of those dangers, and that breach renders the

¹⁰ The statute also refers to "willful" conduct. Plaintiff does not contend that the application of the statute of repose is defeated by "willful" conduct.

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"limitation" stated in the statute of repose unavailable to Defendant GM LLC as a defense to this action.

- (e) Because GM LLC denies it is a "manufacturer" of the subject product, the statute of repose is not available to it.
- (f) In the event GM LLC attempts to withdraw its denial that it is the "manufacturer" of the subject product and attempts to assert the "limitation" provided by the statute of repose, the dangers of the weak roof in the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX were also well known to GM LLC after the bankruptcy sale, for all the reasons stated in the foregoing paragraphs. GM LLC also breached its own duty to warn of those dangers, and that breach renders the statute of repose unavailable to GM LLC as a defense to this action.
- (g) GM LLC's failure to warn of a known danger, based on knowledge of and notice to GM LLC after the bankruptcy sale, was itself reckless and wanton.
- (h) For the foregoing reasons, the Georgia statute of repose does not bar Plaintiff's claims.
- (i) Plaintiff specifically requests that Special Interrogatories be addressed by the Court as fact-finder, as follows:
 - "Do you find that GM Corp. acted with reckless or wanton disregard for human life in the design or sale of the 2004 GM Cadillac SRX and that such conduct was a proximate cause for which Plaintiff may recover?"
 - 2. "Do you find that GM Corp. had a duty to warn and failed to warn of a hazard associated with the use of the 2004 GM Cadillac SRX and that

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such failure to warn was a proximate cause for which the Plaintiff may recover?"¹¹

- 3. Do you find that GM LLC. acted with reckless or wanton disregard for human life in the design or sale of the 2004 GM Cadillac SRX and that such conduct was a proximate cause for which Plaintiff may recover?"
- 4. "Do you find that GM LLC. had a duty to warn and failed to warn of a hazard associated with the use of the 2004 GM Cadillac SRX and that such failure to warn was a proximate cause for which the Plaintiff may recover?"

III. SPECIFIC COUNTS

COUNT ONE

Strict Liability of General Motors LLC

36.

Plaintiff incorporates as if re-alleged herein in full paragraphs 1 through 35 of this Complaint.

37.

GM Corp. is strictly liable to Plaintiff under O.C.G.A. § 51-1-11 and other applicable law because the risks inherent in the design of the roof structure in the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX outweighed any utility of the chosen design, thereby rendering the vehicle defective,

¹¹ Both those special interrogatories were submitted by the trial court to the jury in *Walden v. Chrysler*, a case tried in Decatur Co., Ga., Superior Court resulting in a verdict on April 2, 2015. FCA has appealed the final judgment in that case. FCA has not claimed error with respect to those special interrogatories. FCA has not claimed it is not liable for the breach by its predecessor, Chrysler Group LLC, of a duty to warn.

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unreasonably dangerous, and not reasonably suited to the use for which it was intended. The defects in the Cadillac SRX include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. The roof structure in the Cadillac SRX failed to offer proper protection to occupants like Veronica Fox during foreseeable rollover events;
- The roof panel was made almost entirely of glass with a narrow rim of fiber glass;
- c. The roof panel was attached to the vehicle by nothing but glue;
- d. During the rollover, the entire roof panel came completely off the vehicle, leaving a gaping hole in the roof of the vehicle;
- e. GM Corp. knew that the glued-on glass roof would not protect occupants in a rollover;
- f. Despite this knowledge, GM Corp. did not design the remaining structure to protect occupants in a rollover;
- g. GM Corp. designed the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX with a strength-to-weight ratio of 1.9, which earned it the lowest possible rating for roof strength by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. *See* Exhibit 3, IIHS Website, <u>http://www.iihs.org/iihs/ratings/ratings-info/roof-strength-test</u> (last visited May 19, 2016). According to IIHS, a strength-to-weight ratio of 1.9 is not "good," "acceptable," or even "marginal"—it is "**poor**." *Id*.;
- h. GM Corp. did not adequately test the performance of the Cadillac SRX's roof structure to determine whether prospective owners, users, and

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occupants of the 2004-2009. Cadillac SRX would be exposed to an unreasonable risk of physical harm during rollover events;

- GM Corp. knew, or should have known, from the testing that was performed on the Cadillac SRX and other GM Corp. vehicles with the same or similar roofs, from real world incidents, and from the laws of physics, that the Cadillac SRX roof would fail, and GM Corp. knew that serious injury to vehicle occupants could result;
- j. The Cadillac SRX does not contain, and is not accompanied by, warnings to prospective owners, users, or occupants, including Plaintiff, either at the time of sale or post-sale, of the unreasonable risk of physical harm associated with the design of the roof structure of the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX;
- k. The Cadillac SRX does not contain, and is not accompanied by, <u>adequate</u> warnings to prospective owners, users, or occupants, including Plaintiff, either at the time of sale or post sale, of the unreasonable risk of physical harm associated with the design of the roof structure of the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX; and
- At no point did GM Corp. ever notify car dealers (either new or used) of the unreasonable risk of physical harm posed by design of the roof structure of the 2004 - 2009 Cadillac SRX so that information could be conveyed to potential and actual buyers of the 2004 - 2009 Cadillac SRX.

18

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38.

Defendant GM LLC assumed liability for product liability claims against GM Corp. that arose after the bankruptcy sale, as set forth in the Sale Agreement and rulings by the Bankruptcy Court. Plaintiff's strict liability claims against GM Corp. are properly asserted against GM LLC.

39.

The defects in the 2004 Cadillac SRX proximately caused Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

40.

Defendants are liable for the injuries and damages Plaintiff suffered.

COUNT TWO

Negligence of General Motors LLC

41.

Plaintiff incorporates as if re-alleged herein in full paragraphs 1 through 40 of this Complaint.

42.

GM Corp. owed a duty to the consuming public in general, and Plaintiff in particular, to exercise reasonable care to design, test, manufacture, inspect, market, and distribute a product free of unreasonable risk of harm to owners, users, and occupants.

43.

At the time GM Corp. manufactured, marketed, distributed, and sold the 2004 Cadillac SRX, GM Corp. could reasonably have foreseen and did, in fact, foresee the occurrence of rollover events such as the one described in this Complaint.

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44.

GM Corp. breached its duty to exercise reasonable care as set forth in the paragraphs above.

45.

The negligence of GM Corp. and AAB proximately caused Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

46.

Defendant GM LLC assumed liability for product liability claims against GM Corp. that arose after the bankruptcy sale, as set forth in the Sale Agreement and rulings by the Bankruptcy Court. Plaintiff's negligence claims against GM Corp. are properly asserted against GM LLC.

47.

Defendants are liable for the injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiff.

COUNT THREE

General Motors LLC's Failure to Warn

48.

Plaintiff incorporates as if re-alleged herein in full paragraphs 1 through 47 of this Complaint.

49.

GM LLC did, in fact, foresee, based upon its own knowledge after the bankruptcy sale, the occurrence of rollover events such as the one described in this Complaint.

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50.

Based upon its own knowledge after the bankruptcy sale, GM LLC owed a duty to the consuming public in general, and to Plaintiff in particular, to warn of the dangers arising from the roof design of the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX.

51.

GM LLC knew after the bankruptcy sale about the danger of the roof of the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX, but chose not to warn the public or Plaintiff about that danger. That failure was negligence.

52.

GM LLC's failure to warn proximately caused Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

53.

Defendant GM LLC is liable for the injuries and damages Plaintiff suffered.

COUNT FOUR

GM Corp.'s Failure to Warn

54.

Plaintiff incorporates as if re-alleged herein in full paragraphs 1 through 53 of this Complaint.

55.

GM Corp. did, in fact, foresee the occurrence of rollover events such as the one described in this Complaint.

56.

GM Corp. knew about the danger of the roof of the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX, but chose not to warn the public or Plaintiff about that danger.

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57.

GM Corp. owed a duty to the consuming public in general, and to Plaintiff in particular, to warn of the dangers arising from the roof design of the 2004-2009 Cadillac SRX. GM Corp.'s failure to warn was negligence.

58.

GM Corp.'s failure to warn proximately caused Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

59.

Defendant GM LLC assumed the liability for GM Corp.'s failure to warn, and is therefore liable for the injuries and damages Plaintiff suffered.

COUNT FIVE

Atlanta Auto Brokers, Inc.'s Failure to Warn

60.

Plaintiff incorporates as if re-alleged herein in full paragraphs 1 through 59 of this Complaint.

61.

Defendant AAB sold the subject 2004 Cadillac SRX to Plaintiff Veronica Fox on or about September 27, 2013, less than two months before the wreck that is the subject of this Complaint.

62.

AAB is in the business of buying, selling, and inspecting cars. It has been in that business for over 20 years. As a result of this extensive experience, AAB has specialized in and has superior knowledge about cars, car repair and parts, vehicle safety, and vehicle quality.

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63.

Before selling the vehicle to Plaintiff, Defendant AAB undertook to inspect the vehicle for Plaintiff's benefit. It therefore had a duty to conduct its inspection non-negligently.

64.

Plaintiff originally sought to purchase a Chevrolet Suburban at AAB, but AAB's inspection had revealed the Suburban needed repairs. AAB therefore discouraged Plaintiff from purchasing that vehicle. AAB told Plaintiff that the Cadillac SRX had passed its inspection. AAB therefore encouraged her to choose the Cadillac SRX instead of the Suburban. Plaintiff relied upon AAB's inspection and its statements about the inspection when she chose to purchase the subject Cadillac SRX.

65.

AAB also detailed the car before selling it Plaintiff. AAB's inspection and detail of the vehicle either did or should have revealed the dangers of the Cadillac SRX roof, including but not limited to the fact that the roof was made almost entirely of glass and was attached by nothing but glue. A lay person like Plaintiff would not know that the roof was made almost entirely of glass because the rear panels of glass were concealed from the inside by the headliner. Plaintiff, in fact, did not know that the roof was made almost entirely of glass until after the wreck occurred.

66.

Defendant AAB encouraged Plaintiff to purchase the Cadillac SRX because of the sunroof. AAB repeatedly emphasized the sunroof as a selling feature because it extended to the second row of seats. AAB's statements about the sunroof were incomplete and misleading

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because AAB did not inform Plaintiff that the glass actually extended almost the entire length of the vehicle and because the structure of the roof was itself a deadly design defect.

67.

AAB provided safety warnings to Plaintiff about the use of the sunroof, advising her not to allow passengers to "hang out of the sunroof." AAB's warnings were incomplete and misleading because they suggested that the only danger associated with the roof was the danger of passengers being injured as a result of a decision to "hang out of the sunroof."

68.

Defendant AAB knew or should have known that the Cadillac SRX roof would not protect occupants in the event of a rollover wreck and therefore had a duty to warn Plaintiff about the dangers created by the Cadillac SRX roof. AAB's actual or constructive knowledge was a result of its superior knowledge of vehicle parts, quality, and safety, generally—and the Cadillac SRX's parts, quality, and safety, specifically; its inspection of the vehicle; and its knowledge about the Cadillac SRX roof and sunroof.

69.

Defendant AAB knew or reasonably should have known that the Cadillac SRX roof was dangerous and could result in serious or catastrophic injury or death in foreseeable rollover wrecks. Despite that knowledge, AAB failed to warn Plaintiff of the danger. That failure was negligence.

70.

Plaintiff would not have purchased the Cadillac SRX had she been informed of and known about the dangers of the roof.

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71.

Defendant AAB's failure to warn proximately caused Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

72.

Defendant AAB is liable for the injuries and damages Plaintiff suffered.

DAMAGES & PRAYER FOR RELIEF

73.

Plaintiff incorporates as if re-alleged herein in full paragraphs 1 through 72 of this Complaint.

74.

As a direct result of the defective condition of the 2004 Cadillac SRX, Plaintiff Veronica Fox has suffered severe and permanent personal injuries, including quadriplegia.

75.

Plaintiff Veronica Fox seeks damages from Defendants in an amount to be determined by the enlightened conscience of the Court as fact-finder and as demonstrated by the evidence, for all elements of compensatory damages allowed by Georgia law. Plaintiff's injuries are permanent, and damages sought include the following:

- a. all components of the mental and physical pain and suffering Veronica Fox endured upon impact and up until the present time;
- b. all components of the mental and physical pain and suffering Veronica Fox will endure in the future;
- c. past and future loss of enjoyment of life; and

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all past and future economic losses, including lost income, medical bills, medical expenses, other necessary expenses for the care and treatment of Veronica Fox, including household services.

76.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

- a. That summons issue and service be perfected upon Defendants requiring them to appear before this Court and answer this Complaint for Damages;
- That the Special Interrogatories referenced in ¶35(i) be addressed by the Court as fact-finder;
- b. That final judgment be entered against Defendants;
- c. That Plaintiff Veronica Fox recovers all elements of compensatory damages, including general and special damages, against Defendants;
- e. That all costs be cast against Defendants; and
- f. That Plaintiff has such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

This 23rd day of June, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

BUTLER WOOTEN & PEAK LLP

BY:

JAMES E. BUTLER, JR. Georgia Bar No.099625 TEDRA L. CANNELLA Georgia Bar No. 881085 ROBERT H. SNYDER Georgia Bar No. 404522

2719 Buford Highway Atlanta, Georgia 30324 (404) 321-1700

KENNETH S. NUGENT PC

BY:

WILLIAM G. HAMMILL Georgia Bar No. 943334 Signed with Express Permission By Robert H. Snyder

4227 Pleasant Hill Road Building 11, Suite 300 Duluth, GA 30096 (404) 885-1983

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

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EXHIBIT 1

GM July Sales Total 189,443; Highest Retail Sales in Ten Months; Chevy Retail Up 1 Percent

2009-08-03

July month-over-month retail sales increase led by core brands: Chevrolet, GMC, Buick and Cadillac which were up 12 percent collectively compared with June

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- Chevrolet led by the Camaro and the all-new Equinox had a year-over-year retail sales improvement
- All-new model pushes Chevrolet Equinox sales up 78 percent compared with July 2008
- CARS (Cash for Clunkers) program driving showroom traffic to GM's strong portfolio of fuel-efficient new vehicles; Chevrolet Aveo total sales up 124 percent, crossovers Equinox and HHR up 164 and 36 percent respectively, Cobalt up 38 percent. GMC Canyon and Chevrolet Colorado mid-pickup sales climb 38 percent compared with June

DETROIT - General Motors dealers in the United States delivered 189,443 total vehicles in July, results in a month-overmonth retail sales increase. The July total, when compared with a strong July last year and lower fleet sales this year, was down 19 percent compared with a year ago. Retail sales were down 9 percent while fleet sales declined 47 percent. However, when comparing GM's strong July retail sales with June, volume was up nearly 12,000 vehicles. Large pickup retail sales began to recover in July with a 16 percent increase compared with June, driving total GM truck retail sales improvements of 12 percent when compared with the prior month.

"Our performance is being driven by the outstanding products in our core Chevrolet, GMC, Cadillac and Buick brands. While still challenging, the market is firming and GM sales are still tracking ahead of what we projected in our reinvention plan," said Mark LaNeve, vice president, U.S. sales. "In July we are projecting our retail market share to exceed our yearago performance. From great new products, like our Cadillac SRX and CTS Sport Wagon, Chevrolet Camaro and Equinox, to attractive financing and new leasing opportunities and to the Cash-for-Clunkers program that helps reduce the cost to buy a new vehicle - customers have unprecedented opportunities to get into a new GM car or truck. We anticipate an additional sales lift in August if Congress approves more funding for the wildly-popular Cash-For-Clunkers economic recovery program."

Compared with last July, GM overall sales declined 45.741 vehicles driven largely by a planned reduction in fleet sales of 30,423 vehicles (down 47 percent). This drop in fleet sales was a direct result of a strategic decision to tightly control production and inventories that better enable GM dealers to reduce their stock of vehicles to align with market demand. Retail sales of 155.569 vehicles were down 9 percent. GM total truck sales in July were down 18 percent, and car sales of 83,736 were off 21 percent compared with a year ago. However, when compared with a year ago, GM total crossover sales of 39,937 were up 6 percent, driven by the strong performance of Chevrolet Traverse which contributed more than 6,600 sales.

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When compared with June's retail performance, there were several product highlights in GM's core brands to note:

- Chevrolet Aveo, Cobalt, Impala and Malibu contributed to a Chevrolet car retail increase of 8 percent. Chevrolet truck sales increased 27 percent, led by increases by Silverado, Suburban, Avalanche, Colorado, HHR and Equinox.
- B GMC sales increased 8 percent, led by Sierra, Canyon and Yukon XL.
- Cadillac Escalade ESV sales increased 32 percent while Escalade sales increased 3 percent.

"Assuming the Cash-For-Clunkers program stays in place, we look to continue this positive momentum in August," LaNeve said. "We offer twice as many vehicles that qualify for the Cash-For-Clunkers program than any other manufacturer - vehicles such as Chevrolet Aveo, Cobalt, Malibu, HHR, Silverado and GMC Sierra. Additionally, we have the best selection of crossovers in the industry with Chevrolet Traverse, GMC Acadia, Buick Enclave, and the all-new GMC Terrain, Chevrolet Equinox and Cadillac SRX. Clearly, GM dealers have the cars and trucks that customers demand."

A total of 1,487 GM hybrid vehicles were delivered in the month. So far, in 2009, GM has delivered 9,836 hybrid vehicles.

Non-core brand sales declined when compared with June as Pontiac dipped 7 percent; Saturn was down 21 percent, and HUMMER and Saab declined 26 percent.

GM inventories dropped compared with a year ago, and dipped below the half-million mark as planned, to historically low levels. In July, GM dealers had an average 76 day supply of vehicles. At the end of July, about 466,000 vehicles were in stock, down about 281,000 vehicles (or 38 percent) compared with last year, and down approximately 20 percent compared with June. There were about 202,000 cars and 264,000 trucks (including crossovers) in inventory at the end of July.

GM Certified Sales

GM Certified Used Vehicles, Saturn Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles, Cadillac Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles, Saab Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles, and HUMMER Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles, combined sold 29,211 vehicles.

GM Certified Used Vehicles posted July sales of 25,441 vehicles. down 29 percent from July 2008. Saturn Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles sold 829 vehicles, down 29 percent. Cadillac Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles sold 2,383 vehicles, down 35 percent. Saab Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles sold 371 vehicles, down 52 percent. HUMMER Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles posted an increase with 187 vehicles sold, up 16 percent.

"We are confident in the new GM and are committed more than ever to sell our comprehensive line-up of cars, trucks, SUVs and crossovers, whether new or used. Our Certified Used Vehicles offer a worry-free purchasing experience - a tremendous value to our customers," LaNeve said. "GM's national network of dealers will continue to honor warranties on current and future General Motors Certified Used/Pre-Owned vehicles, which demonstrates the durability and reliability of our products. GM Certified offers wide-ranging and long-term warranties such as the 12-month/12,000 mile bumper-to-bumper warranty and the industry-leading 100,000 mile/five-year (whichever comes first) limited powertrain warranty on the largest selection of Certified Used vehicles in the industry."
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GM North America Reports July 2009 Production; Initial Q3 2009 Production Forecast at 535,000 Vehicles, a significant improvement from Q1 and Q2 2009 levels.

In July, GM North America produced 102,000 vehicles (39,000 cars and 63,000 trucks). This is down 136,000 vehicles or 57 percent compared with July 2008 when the region produced 238,000 vehicles (116,000 cars and 122,000 trucks). (Production totals include joint venture production of 11,000 vehicles in July 2009 and 14,000 vehicles in July 2008.)

The region's 2009 third-quarter production forecast is initially set at 535,000 vehicles (210,000 cars and 325,000 trucks), which is down about 42 percent compared with a year ago. GM North America built 915,000 vehicles (436,000 cars and 479,000 trucks) in the third-quarter of 2008. However, Q3 2009 production volumes have substantially increased versus Q1 and Q2 2009 production volumes of 371,000 (up 44 percent) and 395,000 (up 35 percent), respectively.

About General Motors: General Motors Company, one of the world's largest automakers, traces its roots back to 1908. With its global headquarters in Detroit, GM employs 235,000 people in every major region of the world and does business in some 140 countries. GM and its strategic partners produce cars and trucks in 34 countries, and sell and service these vehicles through the following brands: Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, GM Daewoo, Holden, Opel, Vauxhall and Wuling. GM's largest national market is the United States, followed by China, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia and Germany. GM's OnStar subsidiary is the industry leader in vehicle safety, security and information services. General Motors Company acquired operations from General Motors Corporation on July 10, 2009, and references to prior periods in this and other press materials refer to operations of the old General Motors Corporation. More information on the new General Motors Company can be found at www.gm.com.

*S/D Curr: 26		July .				(Calendar Year-to-Date) January - July			
*S/D Prev: 26	2009	2008	% Chg Volume	% Ung per S/D	2009	2008	%Chg Volume		
Vehicle Total	189,443	235,184	-19.4	-19.4	1,143,799	1,840,126	-37.8		
Car Total	83,376	105,335	-20.8	-20.8	485,906	794,842	-38.9		
Light Truck Total	104,780	128,005	-18.1	-18.1	649,768	1,027,733	-36.8		
Light Vehicle Total	188,156	233.340	-19.4	-19.4	1,135,674	1,822,575	-37.7		
Truck Total	106,067	129,849	-18.3	-18.3	657,893	1,045,284	-37.1		

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GM Vehicle Deliveries by	Marketing Division						
	2009	2008	%Chg Volume	ll %Chg per S/D	2009	2008	%Ch Volum
Buick Total	7,099	10,013	-29.1	-29.1	54,322	81,176	-33.
Cadillac Total	6,171	13,022	-52.6	-52.6	54,754	101,731	-46.1
Chevrolet Total	124,948	137,823	-9.3	-9.3	721,880	1,102,488	-34.:
GMC Total	21,860	27,447	-20.4	-20.4	140,331	224,667	-37.:
HUMMER Total	799	1,877	-57.4	-57.4	6,990	18,035	-61.2
Pontiae Total	22,024	25,373	-13.2	-13.2	110,818	178,127	-37.8
Saab Total	574	2,026	-71.7	-71.7	5,960	14,094	-57.2
Saturn Total	5,968	17,603	-66.1	-66.1	48,744	119,808	-59.3
GM Vehicle Total	189,443	235,184	19.4	-19.4	· 1,143,799	1,840,126	37.8
GM Car Deliveries by Mar	keting Division		L	L		L <u>astanon and L</u>	
	2009	2008	%Chg Volume	%Chg per S/D	2009	2008	%Chg Volume
Buick Total	3,302	6,086	-45.7	-45.7	29,603	54,911	-46.1
Cadillac Total	3,711	8,630	-57.0	-57.0	36,754	67,267	-45.4
Chevrolet Total	52,463	55,506	-5.5	-5.5	293,442	443,422	-33.8
Pontiac Total	21,133	23,689	-10.8	-10.8	102,947	164,422	-37.4

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Saab Total	483	1,621	-70.2	-70.2	4,334	11,773	-63.
Saturn Total	2,284	9,803	-76.7	-76.7	18,826	53,047	-64.
GM Car Total	83,376	105,335	-20.8	-20.8	485,906	794,842	-38
GM Light Truck Deliveries	by Marketing Div	ision	<u> </u>				
	2009	2008	%Chg Volume	%Chg per S/D	2009	2008	%Ch Volum
Buick Total	3,797	3,927	-3.3	-3.3	24,719	26,265	-5.
Cadillac Total	2,460	4,392	-44.0	-44.0	18,000	34,464	-47.
Chevrolet Total	72,054	81,572	-11.7	-11.7	424,693	652,196	-34.
GMC Total	21,004	26,348	-20.3	-20.3	135,951	213,986	-36.
HUMMER Total	799	1,877	-57.4	-57.4	6,990	18,035	-61.
Pontiac Total	891	. 1,684	-47.1	47.1	7,871	13,705	-42.
Saab Total	91	405	-77.5	-77.5	1,626	2,321	-29.
Saturn Total	3,684	7,800	-52.8	-52.8	29,918	66,761	-55.
GM Light Truck Total	104,780	128,005	-18.1	-18.1	649,768	1,027,733	-36.

* Twenty-six selling days (S/D) for the July period this year and twenty-six for last year.

**Effective August 2007, GM includes GMC & Chevrolet dealer deliveries of commercial vehicles distributed by American Isuzu Motors, Inc.

July	(Calendar Year-to-Date) January - July
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	2009	2008	% Chg Volume	ll %Chg ner S/D	2009	2008	%Chg Volume
Selling Days (S/D)	26	26			26	26	
LaCrosse	1,468	2,061	-28.8	-28.8	11.410	23,231	-50.9
Lucerne	1,834	4,025	-54.4	-54.4	18,193	31,680	-42.6
Buick Total	3,302	6,086	-45.7	-45.7	29,603	54,911	-46.1
стѕ	2,383	5,262	-54.7	-54.7	22,942	37,252	-38.4
DTS	901	2,179	-58.7	-58.7	9,011	18,387	-51.0
STS	358	1,079	-66.8	-66.8	4,272	10,790	-60.4
XLR	69	110	-37.3	-37.3	529	838	-36.9
Cadillac Total	3,711	8,630	-57.0	-57.0	36,754	67,267	-45.4
Aveo .	4,961	7,215	-31.2	-31.2	16,847	37,697	-55.3
Camaro	7,113	0	*** *	***.*	22,510	0	***.*
Cobalt	9,435	16,410	-42.5	-42.5	61,111	130,660	· -53.2
Corvette	966	1,870	-48.3	-48.3	8,464	16,824	-49.7
Impala	14,649	13,368	9.6	9.6	93,336	152,320	-38.7
Malibu	15,339	16,637	-7.8	-7.8	91,168	105,212	-13.3
Monte Carlo	0	6	***.*	***.*	6	696 -	-99.1

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SSR	0	0	***.*	*****	0	13	***.*
Chevrolet Total	52,463	55,506	-5.5	-5.5	293,442	443,422	-33.8
G3 Wave	1,100	0	*** *	***.*	2,315	0	*** *
G5	2,723	2,665	2.2	2.2	7,579	15,156	-50.0
G6	8,193	13,261	-38.2	-38.2	47,815	98,943	-51.7
G8	2,404	1,472	63.3	63.3	18,095	7,742	133.7
GTO	0	0	***	*** *	0	52	***.*
Grand Prix	12	558	-97.8	-97.8	247	7,505	-96.7
Solstice	655	1,232	-46.8	-46.8	3,339	8,113	-58.8
Vibe	6,046	4,501	34.3	34.3	23,557	26,911	-12.5
Pontiac Total	21,133	23,689	-10.8	-10.8	102,947	164,422	-37.4
9-2X	0	0	*** *	*** *	0	3	****.*
9-3	421	1,394	-69.8	-69.8	3,601	10,025	-64.1
9-5	62	227	-72.7	-72.7	733	1,745	-58.0
Saab Total	483	1,621	-70.2	-70.2	4,334	11,773	-63.2
Astra	558	1,555	-64.1	-64.1	4,768	5,920	-19.5
Aura	1,415	7,202	-80.4	-80.4	12,076	40,140	-69.9

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ION	0	4	***.*	***.*	12	311	-96.
Sky	311	1,042	-70.2	-70.2	1,970	6,676	-70.:
Saturn Total	2,284	9,803	-76.7	-76.7	18,826	53,047	-64.:
GM Car Total	83,376	105.335	-20.8	-20.8	485,906	794,842	-38.9
		J	uly		11	endar Year-to-E January - July	Date)
	2009	2008	% Chg Vołume	%Chg per S/D	2009	2008	%Chş Volume
Selling Days (S/D)	26	26			26	26	
Enclave	3,797	3,894	-2.5	-2.5	24,673	25,651	-3.8
Rainier	0	3	****	***.*	4	108	-96.3
Rendezvous	0	1	*** *	***.*	9	23	-60.9
Terraza	0	29	***.*	*** *	33	483	-93.2
Buick Total	3,797	3,927	-3.3	-3.3	24,719	26,265	-5.9
Escalade	1,068	1,775	-39.8	-39.8	8,617	14,103	-38.9
Escalade ESV	569	842	-32.4	-32.4	3,449	6,696	-48.5
Escalade EXT	175	329	-46.8	-46.8	1,431	2,730	-47.6
SRX	648	1,446	-55.2	-55.2	4,503	10,935	-58.8
Cadillac Total	2,460	4,392	-44.0	-44.0	18,000	34,464	-47.8

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Chevy C/T Series	0	40	***	****	31	188	-83
Chevy W Series	71	157	-54.8	-54.8	454	1,108	-59
Colorado	3,911	4,989	-21.6	-21.6	20,819	37,340	-44
Equinox	10,834	6,095	77.8	77.8	35,985	48,196	-25
Express Cutaway/G Cut	1,269	877	44.7	44.7	6,919	7,591	-8
Express Panel/G Van	3,199	3,657	-12.5	-12.5	17,401	30,467	-42.
Express/G Sportvan	254	982	74.1	-74,1	7,006	8,733	-19.
HHR	8,409	11,518	-27.0	-27.0	39,133	62,336	-37.
Kodiak 4/5 Series	322	479	-32.8	-32.8	2,503	4,529	-44.
Kodiak 6/7/8 Series	38	69	-44.9	-44.9	757	1,045	-27.
Suburban (Chevy)	3,281	3,989	-17.7	-17.7	18,002	31,910	-43.
Tahoe	4,178	7,732	-46.0	-46.0	36,393	59,925	-39.
TrailBlazer	580	3,952	-85.3	-85.3	7,722	44,585	-82.
Traverse	6,690	0	******	*** *	47,369	0	***.
Uplander		2,258	-95.1	-95.1	1,527	35,969	-95.
Avalanche	1,721	2,534	-32.1	-32.1	8,851	20,835	-57
Silverado-C/K Pickup	27,617	32,989	-16.3	-16.3	177,566	264,309	-32

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	00.000				106.117	207.144	
Chevrolet Fullsize Pickups	29,338	35,523	-17.4	-17.4	186,417	285,144	-34.6
Chevrolet Total	72,485	82,317	-11.9	-11.9	428,438	659,066	-35.0
Acadia	4,974	5,397	-7.8	-7.8	32,334	43,666	-26.0
Canyon	1,146	1,311	-12.6	-12.6	6,343	9,995	-36.5
Envoy	410	1,070	-61.7	-61.7	4,055	14,029	-71.1
GMC C/T Series	66	32	106.3	106.3	308	319	-3.4
GMC W Series	360	278	29.5	29.5	1,138	1,716	-33.7
Savana Panel/G Classic	473	710	-33.4	-33.4	3,264	5,931	-45.0
Savana Special/G Cut	209	1,239	-83.1	-83.1	4,423	7,156	-38.2
Savana/Rally	67	71	-5.6	-5.6	576	729	-21.0
Sierra	10,465	11,596	-9.8	-9.8	60,532	94,770	-36.1
Terrain	0	0	*** *	*** *	3	0	***.*
Topkick 4/5 Series	286	525	-45.5	-45.5	1,685	6,209	-72.9
Topkick 6/7/8 Series	144	264	-45.5	-45.5	1,249	2,437	-48.7
Yukon	1,636	3,087	-47.0	-47.0	15,989	22,942	-30.3
Yukon XL	1,624	1,867	-13.0	-13.0	8,432	14,768	-42.9
GMC Total	21,860	27,447	-20.4	-20.4	140,331	224,667	-37.5

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HUMMER HI	0	1	***	***.*	0	13	*** *
HUMMER H2	133	454	-70.7	-70.7	1,153	4,207	-72.6
HUMMER H3	482	1,422	-66.1	-66.1	4,327	13,815	-68.7
HUMMER H3T	184	0	***.*	***.*	1,510	0	***.*
HUMMER Total	799	1,877	-57.4	-57.4	6,990	18,035	-61.2
Montana SV6	0	0	***	*** *	0	64	***.*
Torrent	891	1,684	-47.1	-47.1	7,871	13,641	-42.3
Pontiac Total	891	1,684	-47.1	-47.1	7,871	13,705	-42.6
9-7X·	91	405	-77.5	-77.5	1,626	2,321	-29.9
Saab Total	91	405	-77.5	-77.5	1,626	2,321	-29.9
Outlook	926	2,368	-60.9	-60.9	9.163	15,428	-40.6
Relay	0	6	*** *	***.*	12	155	-92.3
VUE	2,758	5,426	-49.2	-49.2	20,743	51,178	-59.5
Saturn Total	3,684	7,800	-52.8	-52.8	29,918	66,761	-55.2
GM Truck Total	106,067	129,849	-18.3	-18.3	657,893	1,045,284	-37.1

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Source: <u>http://media.gm.com/media/us/en/gm/home.detail.html/content/Pages/news/us/en/2009/Aug/0808</u>_JulySales.html

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EXHIBIT 2

A New GM Kicks Into High Gear at Product and Technology Event

2009-08-11

- Chevrolet Volt estimated city fuel economy is 230 mpg / 25 kilowatt hours per 100 miles (press release)
- Media and consumers preview 25 new models coming between now and 2011
- Cadillac confirms new entry-level luxury sport sedan is under development
- GM's four brands launch six all-new 2010 vehicles, including the industry's most fuel-efficient compact crossover SUVs and all-new Buick LaCrosse sedan

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- GM launches 'The Lab' to gather and incorporate direct consumer feedback to possible future vehicle designs
- TRANSCRIPT: GM Product and Technology Showcase Remarks by Fritz Henderson[.doc]
- Descargar en Formato Word en Espanol

DETROIT, Mich. – A revitalized General Motors reintroduced itself today with an array of all-new cars, crossovers and trucks debuting now through 2011. GM also made a historic announcement: When the Chevrolet Volt extended-range electric vehicle rolls off the assembly line late next year, it will be the first mass-production automobile to achieve triple-digit fuel economy, with an expected 230 mpg in the city, or 25 kilowatt hours per 100 miles.

GM President and CEO Fritz Henderson also confirmed that Cadillac is developing an entry luxury sport sedan to capitalize on the growing market for smaller luxury sedans in the U.S. and globally. The rear- and optional all-wheel drive sedan will compete in the segment below the CTS, delivering outstanding performance and driving dynamics.

At GM's Design Center and Milford Proving Ground, GM previewed six all-new 2010 vehicles and a glimpse of what is being introduced through the end of 2011:

- Chevrolet alone is introducing 10 new models, including the 2011 Chevrolet Volt
- Buick and GMC are adding 10 new entries, including a Buick plug-in hybrid compact crossover in 2011
- Cadillac is introducing five new models through 2011

Henderson also announced that as part of GM's commitment to get closer to consumers, GM will use its FastLane blog to gather product research from both fans and critics. One pilot initiative, "The Lab," will involve GM's Advanced Design studio and allow users openly talk with designers about ideas and consumer-friendly technologies that were previously shared only in unbranded clinics.

In addition, Henderson said he and other executives plan to talk with consumers in other Web-based and in-person formats in the coming months. On Monday, the new GM executive committee, led by Henderson, showed off products and technologies to about 75 consumers at the GM Technical Center and the Milford Proving Ground.

"The key to restarting this company lies with GM's customers, cars and culture," Henderson said. "With four focused brands, we are committed to exceeding our current customers' expectations and giving consumers plenty of reasons to choose a Chevy, Buick, GMC or Cadillac car or truck."

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Chevrolet Volt fuel economy achieves triple digits

Using development testing based on a draft U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) procedure for plug-in electric vehicles, the Chevrolet Volt is expected to achieve 230 miles per gallon or better in city driving (25 kW hours per 100 miles). The Volt, scheduled to begin production late next year as a 2011 model, can travel up to 40 miles on electricity from a single battery charge and can extend its overall range to more than 300 miles with its flex-fuel engine-generator.

The EPA test procedure for plug-in electric vehicles, which is still being finalized, assumes a single charge each day. According to U.S. Department of Transportation data (http://tinyurl.com/U-S-DOTStudy), nearly eight of 10 Americans commute fewer than 40 miles a day.

"From the data we've seen, most drivers could operate purely on grid electricity in a Chevy Volt," Henderson said. "A car that gets more than 100 miles per gallon is a significant step in the reinvention of the auto industry and GM is and will continue to be a leader in that reinvention."

Cadillac confirms entry luxury sedan

With the all-new SRX and CTS Sport Wagon coming to market this month, the brand plans to pursue an even bigger piece of the luxury sport sedan market. Cadillac is developing a sport sedan below the acclaimed CTS that will deliver on the price of entry in this highly competitive segment of the luxury market – driving dynamics. With high-tech engines, rear-wheel drive and optional all-wheel drive, the new sedan will take on the best in the segment.

"We are determined to repeat what CTS has already achieved in design, quality, driving dynamics, performance and fuel economy to grow our presence in this high-volume and highly competitive segment," Henderson said.

Greater customer engagement

While GM has organized customer clinics and collected feedback for many years, the Web provides even greater opportunities to connect with consumers. Henderson said executives will use a combination of in-person meetings and online technology to better interact with them.

"Our customers are the reason we're here. It's critical to have their voices help shape our products, and their experience with them," Henderson said. "Their feedback helps us learn and evolve so we can continuously improve our cars and trucks, and our customer relationships."

In addition to "Tell Fritz," a feature on www.gmreinvention.com, in which customers can provide feedback, GM will use its popular FastLane blog (fastlane.gmblogs.com) to launch "The Lab," a microsite featuring future projects by GM's Advanced Design team.

Interacting directly with designers, consumers can share input on designs and technologies being considered for future projects. Those who provide detailed demographic information may be invited to participate at a deeper level in future sessions.

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2010 launch vehicles by Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet and GMC

GM's four core brands are launching six all-new vehicles for 2010. Here's a brand-by-brand look at what's new:

Buick: The all-new **Buick LaCrosse** continues a brand renaissance begun by the Enclave luxury crossover. The LaCrosse is a completely redesigned luxury sedan that offers a sculpted exterior and luxurious cabin; advanced, intelligent personal technologies and safety features; and a choice of two fuel-saving, direct injected V-6 engines. A 2.4L four-cylinder engine joins the lineup later.

Last week, Buick announced it will introduce a compact crossover SUV next year expected to achieve more than 30 mpg on the highway, followed in 2011 by a plug-in hybrid.

Cadillac: GM's luxury brand launches the **SRX** crossover and the **CTS Sport Wagon** into the luxury market, featuring Cadillac's signature design and technology.

The new SRX is designed to make more inroads into the previously conservative luxury crossover category. A new, 3.0L direct injected V-6 engine is standard, and a new, 2.8L turbocharged V-6 is optional. Both feature greater fuel economy and lower emissions.

The CTS Sport Wagon is a progressive take on the classic wagon body style that delivers significant functionality and fuel efficiency, including an estimated 28 mpg highway. Essentially the same size as the acclaimed CTS sport sedan on the outside, it nearly doubles the cargo carrying capacity, with 25 cubic feet (720 liters) of space behind the rear seats and 53.4 cubic feet (1,523 liters) with the rear seat folded.

Chevrolet: The new **Chevrolet Camaro** returns after a seven-year hiatus. Its combination of efficient performance, which delivers up to 29 mpg highway and heritage-inspired design exemplify Chevrolet's commitment to great design and fuel-efficiency.

The all-new **Chevrolet Equinox** blends distinctive design and outstanding roominess with class-leading efficiency. Chevrolet expects nearly two-thirds of customers will choose the efficient 2.4L engine – standard on all models – that delivers best-in-class EPA-rated 32 mpg highway (FWD models).

GMC: The all-new **GMC Terrain** crossover SUV offers outstanding fuel economy along with the capability, engineering excellence and refinement that have defined GMC for more than a century. Like other GMC vehicles, the Terrain's design is characterized by elements that suggest muscularity, with a prominent front end and squared-off edges.

General Motors Company, one of the world's largest automakers, traces its roots back to 1908. With its global headquarters in Detroit, GM employs 235,000 people in every major region of the world and does business in some 140 countries. GM and its strategic partners produce cars and trucks in 34 countries. and sell and service these vehicles through the following brands: Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, GM Daewoo, Holden, Opel, Vauxhall and Wuling. GM's largest national market is the United States, followed by China, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Canada, Russia and Germany. GM's OnStar subsidiary is the industry leader in vehicle safety, security and information services. General Motors Company acquired operations from General Motors Corporation on July 10, 2009, and references to prior periods in this and other

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press materials refer to operations of the old General Motors Corporation. More information on the new General Motors Company can be found at www.gm.com.

Source:

http://media.gm.com/media/us/en/gm/home.detail.html/content/Pages/news/us/en/2009/Aug/0811_NewGMintro.html

EXHIBIT 3



About our tests

IIHS evaluates a vehicle's crashworthiness with the help of five tests: moderate overlap front, small overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraints & seats. For front crash prevention ratings, the Institute conducts low- and moderate-speed track tests of vehicles with automatic braking systems. IIHS also conducts evaluations of headlight systems and of the child seat attachment hardware known as LATCH. The descriptions below explain how each test is conducted and how the results translate into ratings.

Thousands of people are killed each year in rollovers. The best way to prevent these deaths is to keep vehicles from rolling over in the first place. Electronic stability control is significantly reducing rollovers, especially fatal single-vehicle ones. When vehicles do roll, side curtain airbags help protect the people inside, and belt use is essential. However, for these safety technologies to be most effective, the roof must be able to maintain the occupant survival space when it hits the ground during a rollover. Stronger roofs crush less, reducing the risk that people will be injured by contact with the roof itself. Stronger roofs also can prevent occupants, especially those who aren't using safety belts, from being ejected through windows, windshields or doors that have broken or opened because the roof has deformed.

In the test, the strength of the roof is determined by pushing a metal plate against one side of it at a slow but constant speed. The force applied relative to the vehicle's weight is known as the strength-to-weight ratio. This ratio varies as the test progresses. The peak strength-to-weight ratio recorded at any time before the roof is crushed 5 inches is the key measurement of roof strength.

A good rating requires a strength-to-weight ratio of at least 4. In other words, the roof must withstand a force of at least 4 times the vehicle's weight before the plate crushes the roof by 5 inches. For an acceptable rating, the minimum required strength-to-weight ratio is 3.25. For a marginal rating, it is 2.5. Anything lower than that is poor.

The figure below shows sample results for two vehicles — one rated good and one rated poor. Peak force for Vehicle A is 7.26. Since that number is higher than 4, the vehicle is rated good. Peak force for Vehicle B is 2.31. Since that number is lower than 2.5, the vehicle is rated poor.

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The following video shows how the roof strength test is conducted. In this test of the 2010 Buick LaCrosse, the peak force is 19,571 pounds for a strength-to-weight ratio of 4.90 and a good rating. The playback speed of this video has been increased. The plate normally crushes at a rate of about 1/8 inch per second.

In every test, the roof is crushed 5 inches. What varies — and can't be seen in a video — is the force used by the machine to achieve that degree of crush. To demonstrate how roof strength can vary and what those differences mean for people inside a vehicle during a rollover, IIHS conducted a demonstration in which two vehicles with different roof strength ratings were subjected to identical force. This video shows what happened when the 2009 Volkswagen Tiguan, rated good for roof strength, and the 2008 Kia Sportage, rated poor, were each subjected to a crush force of 15,000 pounds.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this day served counsel of record with a copy of the foregoing pleading by depositing it in the United States Mail with adequate postage affixed thereon and addressed as follows:

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Than

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Exhibit B

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CIRCUIT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

TAMMIE CHAPMAN, Personal Representative of the Estate of AUBREY CHAPMAN, Deceased,	
Plaintiff,	Civil Action: 60CV-15-3292
vs.	
GENERAL MOTORS, LLC; RUSSELL CHEVROLET COMPANY	
Defendants.	

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, TAMMIE CHAPMAN, Personal Representative of the Estate of AUBREY CHAPMAN, Deceased, submits the following First Amended Complaint against Defendants, stating:

1.

This is a products liability, negligence, and wrongful death action brought pursuant to Arkansas law. The single vehicle rollover crash that forms the subject of this litigation occurred on July 26, 2012, while the Decedent was traveling through Colorado. The subject vehicle, including the safety system, was placed into the chain of commerce, distributed, and maintained in Pulaski County, Arkansas.

2.

PREAMBLE

This is a product liability case involving a pre-bankruptcy vehicle and a postbankruptcy crash. GM, LLC ("GM-LLC") is the only General Motors defendant because General Motors Corporation ("Old GM") no longer exists. Consistent with Bankruptcy Court rulings, Plaintiffs make no allegations whatsoever that GM-LLC is liable for misconduct as the "successor" of Old GM (e.g. allegations that refer to GM-LLC as the

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"successor of," a "mere continuation of," or a "de facto successor of" of Old GM). Any such allegation would be proscribed by the Sale Order, April Decision and June Judgment. Likewise, Any reference to Old GM, GM-branded vehicle, or similar phrases in this Amended Complaint are designed not to mix Old GM with GM-LLC, but are intended to make the context clear that any such reference only refers to GM-LLC, and not designed to insinuate a blend of the periods during which vehicles were manufactured by Old GM and GM-LLC or imply a muddying of the distinctions between the two, but only to make crystal clear that GM-LLC purchased certain assets of Old GM; that GM-LLC assumed certain liabilities from Old GM, including responsibility for defective products and recalls; and that GM-LLC acquired specified knowledge from Old GM by virtue of the fact that GM-LLC came after Old GM as a company, including the same offices, equipment, real property, employees, records, and knowledge. Likewise, any allegation that GM-LLC manufactured or designed an Old GM Vehicle, or performed other conduct relating to an Old GM Vehicle before the Sale Order, are not intended to do anything except plead facts necessary under applicable pleading law that GM-LLC has assumed the position of the designer, manufacturer, assembler, marketer, and distributor of the Old GM vehicles, but not in any way intended to imply that GM was actually somehow personally involved at that point, which would obviously be impossible because GM-LLC did not exist at the time. Finally, as to any claim for punitive damages, any such claim, to the extent such a claim is included herein, is only directed at GM-LLC's conduct post-sale and is no way intended to assert or imply that GM-LLC is legally responsible for punitive damages based on Old GM's past misconduct.

2.

Plaintiff TAMMIE CHAPMAN is a citizen and resident of Hot Spring County, Arkansas, and the former spouse of the Decedent. She is the duly-appointed Administratrix and Personal Representative of the Estate of AUBREY CHAPMAN, Deceased. AUBREY CHAPMAN was a citizen and resident of Hot Spring County, Arkansas at the time of his death with his residence in Bismarck, Arkansas.

3.

Defendant GM-LLC is a Delaware Limited Liability Company and has assumed responsibility for Old GM's defective vehicles. On July 10, 2009, Old GM's continuing operational assets were transferred to "Acquisition Holdings LLC", which assumed the

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name "General Motors Company LLC". As part of a reorganization plan agreed to with the U.S., Canadian and Ontario governments, and the company's unions, GM filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection in a Manhattan court in New York on June 1, 2009. GM filed for a government-assisted Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on June 1, 2009, with a plan to re-emerge as a less debt-burdened organization. The filing reported \$82.29 billion in assets. The "new GM," or "GM-LLC" was formed from the purchase of the desirable assets of "old GM" by an entity called "NGMCO Inc." via the bankruptcy process. NGMCO Inc. was renamed to "General Motors Company" upon purchase of the assets and trade name from "old GM," with the claims of former stakeholders to be handled by the "Motors Liquidation Company." The purchase was supported by \$50 billion in U.S. Treasury loans, giving the U.S. government a 60.8% stake in GM. The Queen of Canada, in right of both Canada and Ontario, holds 11.7% and the United Auto Workers, through its health-care trust (VEBA), holds a further 17.5%. The remaining 10% is held by unsecured creditors. On July 10, 2009, a new entity, NGMCO Inc. purchased the ongoing operations and trademarks from GM. The purchasing company in turn changed its name from NGMCO Inc. to General Motors Company, marking the emergence of a new operation from the "pre-packaged" Chapter 11 reorganization. Under the reorganization process, termed a 363 sale (for Section 363 which is located in Title 11, Chapter 3, Subchapter IV of the United States Code, a part of the Bankruptcy Code), the purchaser of the assets of a company in bankruptcy proceedings is able to obtain approval for the purchase from the court prior to the submission of a re-organization plan, free of liens and other claims. The U.S. Treasury financed a new company to purchase the operating assets of the old GM in bankruptcy proceedings in the 'pre-packaged' Chapter 11 reorganization in July, 2009. At all times relevant to the complaint, GM-LLC formally accepted responsibility for the design, manufacture, assembly, marketing and distribution of the subject vehicle, including financial responsibility for damages associated with defects in the subject vehicle. Prior to June 1, 2009, General Motors Corporation (n/k/a Motors Liquidation Company "MLC"), and now known as GM-LLC, was and is authorized to conduct business in Arkansas, owns property in Arkansas, conducts business in Arkansas and derives significant revenue from its activities in Arkansas, and is therefore subject to be sued in Arkansas courts. At all times relevant to the complaint, Old GM was in the business of designing, developing, testing, manufacturing,

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marketing and distributing automobiles, including the defective truck that forms the subject matter of this litigation, and GM-LLC has accepted and assumed responsibility and liability for any such defects by law. GM-LLC currently conducts business in Arkansas and is subject to jurisdiction in Arkansas. GM-LLC has been served and appeared in this action.

4.

At all times relevant to the subject complaint, Old GM was in the business of designing, developing, testing, assembling, manufacturing, marketing, and distributing automobiles, including the subject 2004 model Silverado C1500 pickup truck, worldwide. GM-LLC itself is in the business of designing, developing, testing, assembling, manufacturing, marketing, and distributing automobiles. GM-LLC has assumed Old GM's responsibility for the designing, developing, testing, assembling, manufacturing, marketing, and distributing automobiles, including the subject vehicle and, as a consequence, is considered for all legal purposes as legally responsible for any defects in Old GM vehicles by law.

5.

RUSSELL CHEVROLET COMPANY (hereinafter *Russell*) is an Arkansas corporation whose primary business is located at 6100 Landers Road, North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas. *Russell* is an authorized GM dealership, providing inventory of new and used cars and SUVs for the consuming public. *Russell* placed the vehicle in question into the stream of commerce in a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition and provided service and maintenance. *Russell* may be served with process through its registered agent, Bob Russell at 6100 Landers Road, Sherwood, Arkansas, 72120.

6.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

Venue is appropriate in Pulaski County, Arkansas, because this is the county in which all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, and the county of defendant's residence. The amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional limits of the court.

7.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

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This is a products liability, negligence, and wrongful death action brought pursuant to Arkansas law. The single vehicle rollover crash that forms the subject of this litigation occurred on July 26, 2012, while the Decedent was traveling through Colorado. The subject vehicle, including the safety system, was placed into the chain of commerce, distributed, and maintained in Pulaski County, Arkansas. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Defendants were in the business of designing, developing, assembling, testing, manufacturing, and distributing vehicles and tires for use by consumers.

8.

The 2004 model GM pickup was designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold by Old GM and Russell. The truck was designed and marketed for use on the freeways as a safe and stable passenger-carrying vehicle. GM-LLC has legally accepted responsibility for any defects in the vehicle as if it was the original designer and supplier of the vehicle.

9.

As set forth in the preamble, the truck was equipped with a safety belt system that was designed, tested, manufactured and distributed, individually and jointly, by *GM* and suppliers. GM created all design and performance specifications, including the choice of restraints and safety systems to be designed into the vehicle. At all times relevant to the complaint, the restraint system, including the buckle, were defective and unreasonably dangerous.

10. COUNT I (Strict Liability/Products Liability – Design Defect) GM-RUSSELL

Subject to the preamble, at all times relevant to the complaint, the defendants, except for GM-LLC, were in the business (for profit) of designing, manufacturing, assembling, marketing, and distributing automobiles and auto components, including tires and safety belt systems. GM-LLC was created later, but has accepted legal responsibility for Old GM's defective products. The products in question – the GM truck, and the occupant safety equipment (belt-roof-glazing), all contained design defects at the time the product was manufactured, all of which combined to cause, proximately cause, and result in the producing cause of the damage, injuries, enhanced injuries, and damages alleged herein. The referenced design defects in the

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products are and were conditions of the products that rendered the products unreasonably dangerous as designed, taking into consideration the utility of the product and the risk involved in use. At all times relevant to the Complaint, "safer alternative designs" existed, other than the ones actually used for the vehicle and tire, that in reasonable probability would have prevented or significantly reduced the risk of the occurrence or injury in question without substantially impairing the product's utility; and were economically and technologically feasible at the time the products left the control of the defendants by the application of existing or reasonably achievable scientific knowledge.

11.

The defective nature of the design of the truck included defects in design, stability, handling, marketing, instructions, warning, crashworthiness, rollover resistance and controllability, including the tendency to skate. The defective nature of the vehicle includes the following:

- The truck is defective in that the design of the "package," which includes the combination of track width and vertical center of gravity height, creates an unreasonable risk of loss of control and rollover given the uses for which the vehicle was marketed;
- The truck is defective from a handling standpoint because it has an unreasonable tendency to get sideways in emergency turning maneuvers and does not remain controllable under all operating conditions as required by both Old GM and GM-LLC guidelines, including the tendency to overseer and skate in foreseeable turning maneuvers;
- The truck is unreasonably dangerous from a stability standpoint because it rolls over instead of slides when loss of control does occur on relatively flat level surfaces during foreseeable steering maneuvers;
- The truck is defective from a handling standpoint because it has an unreasonable tendency to get oversteer, skate and get sideways in emergency situations, and does not remain controllable under all operating conditions as required by both Old GM and GM-LLC guidelines;
- The combination of the foregoing creates an extreme risk of rollover that is both beyond the reasonable expectations of consumers and creates a risk that far outweighs any benefit associated with the design given the uses for which the vehicle was marketed;
- The vehicle is unreasonably dangerous because it performs in an unsafe manner when operated in foreseeable turning maneuvers that are consistent with Old GM's effort to market the vehicle as a passenger-carrying vehicle at

freeway speeds prior to the sale, and GM-LLC's marketing after the sale, which Old GM had both actual and constructive knowledge would lead to rollover crashes. That same knowledge was carried into GM-LLC by virtue of the fact that the same employees left Old GM and became employees of GM-LLC. Old GM's knowledge included both actual knowledge based on its test history with trucks and SUVs; its research and knowledge of rollover in foreseeable turning maneuvers. GM-LLC continued to gain even more knowledge post-sale;

- The vehicle was defectively marketed in that consumers were led to believe that the vehicle was safe and stable and could be safely used as a passengercarrying vehicle when defendants knew that this was untrue;
- The risk of operating the vehicle as designed outweighed any benefits associated with the design and the defendants knew of these risks; knew that the risk, if it materialized, would lead to rollover crashes and severe injuries; and knew that rollover crashes were particularly dangerous;
- The defendants knew that this type vehicle—a light truck —was not reasonably safe for inexperienced and untrained drivers and knew that the vehicle was not sufficiently capable of maneuvering in emergency conditions that consumers would face on freeways at freeway speeds;
- The truck was likewise unreasonably dangerous from a crash protection standpoint in that the vehicle was not equipped with an occupant protection system-roof, safety belt system, and glazing design-that would effectively provide reasonable protection in the event of a rollover. GM knew that the belt system would not effectively and reasonably restrain occupants involved in freeway-speed rollovers, including actual knowledge learned from suppliers in the industry as early as 1996, and Old GM new of the risk that the roof was not sufficiently strong to provide a safety cage for the occupants. GM-LLC possesses that same knowledge because the same employees carried over to GM-LLC and likewise GM-LLC acquired additional knowledge post-sale. Despite knowledge of these risks, and the availability of alternative safer designs, including safety features tied to roll sensing—such as pretensioners and side airbags or curtains - Old GM intentionally marketed the vehicle to consumers for use as a freeway, passenger-carrying vehicle, and intentionally led consumers to believe that it was safe, stable, and would provide state of the art protection to occupants, and GM-LLC continued that same irresponsible conduct post-sale;
- The defendants had both actual and constructive knowledge of the existence of safer, alternative designs from both a stability and crash protection standpoint, including roll sensing, roll curtains, electronic stability control, roll stability control, and other safety features that were technologically feasible and available;
- The defendants willfully, wantonly, and consciously marketed the truck, both pre-sale as to Old GM and post-sale as to GM-LLC, for the aforementioned uses with full knowledge of the risks inherent in the vehicle design, yet misled consumers and withheld critical information about the unsafe nature of the

vehicle in conscious disregard for the public, including information about vehicle failures worldwide;

• Old GM failed to act appropriately to take reasonable steps to protect occupants in the event of a rollover. Old GM's conscious disregard for known facts surrounding available technology and the performance of the truck constitutes malicious conduct under applicable law. GM-LLC's post-sale conduct was even worse.

12.

The defective nature of the truck was a proximate and producing cause of the crash and injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiffs. The products were in the substantially the same condition on the date of the crash as they were at the time of manufacture. The Defendants are therefore strictly liable for supplying a defective and unreasonably dangerous product(s) that resulted in plaintiffs' personal injury and property damage.

13.

COUNT II NEGLIGENCE

Subject to the preamble, at all times relevant to the Complaint, defendant Old GM was in the business of supplying motor vehicles, components, and safety equipment for use on the public roadways in Arkansas. GM-LLC accepted legal responsibility for certain assumed liabilities of Old GM. The defendant hold themselves out to the public as having specialized knowledge in the industry, especially with respect to trucks, SUVs and safety components. As such, the defendant, individually and jointly, owed consumers, including the plaintiffs, a duty to use reasonable care in the design, manufacture, preparation, testing, instructing, and warnings surrounding the truck and safety equipment. The defendant violated this duty by negligently supplying a vehicle that were defective, unreasonably dangerous, and knowingly harmful to consumers when used as marketed. The negligent acts include but are not limited to the following acts or omissions:

- Negligently designing the vehicle from a handling and stability standpoint given the manner in which it was marketed;
- Negligently designing the vehicle with poor rollover resistance given the manner in which it was marketed;
- Negligently designing and testing the vehicle so as to assure its controllability;

- Negligently testing of the vehicle from a handling and stability standpoint, including negligent failure to appropriately test and evaluate the design approved for use on the truck;
- Negligently failing to test the vehicle to ensure the design provides reasonable occupant protection in the event of a rollover;
- Failing to adequately train and assist dealers in the dangers associated with the vehicle and tires when used as marketed;
- Negligently marketing the vehicle as a safe and stable passenger vehicle given the uses for which it was marketed;
- Failure to meet or exceed internal corporate guidelines;
- Negligently advertising the vehicle as safe and stable family vehicle;
- Failing to inform the consumer, including the plaintiffs, of the information the defendants knew about rollover risk and specifically the truck, thus depriving plaintiffs of the right to make a conscious and free choice, and also in failing to disclose known problems in foreign countries in an effort to conceal problems that the defendants knew about the truck;
- Failing to comply with the state of the art in the automotive industry insofar as providing reasonable occupant protection in a rollover, including the use of safe retractors, latch plates, roll sensing, ESC, pretensioners, side air bag and curtain technology, and integrated seating technology;
- Failing to comply with applicable and necessary Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards with respect to occupant protection and/or failing to test appropriately to ensure compliance;
- Failing to notify consumers, as required by law, that a defect exists in the vehicle that relates to public safety;
- Negligent failure to warn of aging problems associated with the safety equipment.

These independent acts of negligence combined as a proximate and producing cause of the incident in question and the injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiffs.

14.

Subject to the preamble, and focused solely on GM-LLC's independent conduct during post-sale time periods, GM-LLC brought certain knowledge with it from the sale by virtue of documents and employees, and added to that actual and constructive knowledge of the dangers associated with the failure of the truck post-sale, and in particular the failure of the combination of vehicle and safety equipment. Despite such

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knowledge, GM-LLC acted in their own interests, with an "evil mind," in a willful, wanton and malicious manner, having reason to know, and consciously disregarding, a substantial risk that their conduct might significantly injure or kill others. GM-LLC had both objective and subjective knowledge of the dangers and risks associated with their products in the hands of consumers and, as such, failed to recall, remedy, warn, instruct and otherwise carry out its assumed liability for failing to act appropriately with respect to warranty and recall issues, and should be punished in the form of punitive or exemplary damages for only its independent acts of misconduct post-sale.

15.

Plaintiffs are seeking monetary damages from the defendants, jointly and severally, as found to be reasonable by the jury after consideration of all evidence. The plaintiffs are seeking recovery for the following types of injuries and damages:

- Conscious pain and suffering in the past and in the future;
- Past medical and funeral expense;
- Past and future mental and emotional anguish;
- Past and future loss of earnings;
- Loss of life and the value of life;
- Loss of society and companionship;
- Punitive or exemplary damages;
- For costs incurred herein, including attorneys fees;
- For pre-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law;
- For post-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law;
- For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED this 23rd day of June, 2016.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

/s/ C. TAB TURNER

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Attorneys for the Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby confirm that this pleading was served on all counsel of record on this the 23rd day of June, 2016, by electronic correspondence and regular mail.

<u>/s/ C. TAB TURNER</u> TAB TURNER