

Seat-belt case award: \$10 million

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Clive, Ia. — A Polk County jury on Monday awarded \$10 million to a Clive woman who claimed an unsafe seat belt caused her neck to snap and left her a quadriplegic.

Jalayne Noonan sued Mazda Motor of America Inc., claiming the seat belt in her 1993 Mazda Protege was improperly designed. She said the seat belt rode across her clavicle, instead of lower on her body, and caused her neck to snap when her car collided with a pickup truck in a 1995 accident in Urbandale.

"She is enormously relieved and grateful for what the jury has understood and done in this case," said Mike Galligan, Noonan's attorney. Noonan is raising two sons.

The attorney representing Mazda said the company plans to appeal.