

## **Vorys Partners Settle Ohio University Student's Injury Case against Athens-Hocking Joint Solid Waste District**

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following, or your Vorys relationship attorney:

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Vorys partners Perry W. Doran, II and William D. Kloss, Jr. successfully represented Misato Kawamura and her parents in a lawsuit against Athens-Hocking Joint Solid Waste District in Athens County Common Pleas Court.

In 2007, 19 year old Kawamura, an Ohio University student from Japan, was struck by a recycling truck.

A settlement of \$365,000 was reached quite quickly in order to resolve the lawsuit, which Doran and Kloss attribute to the fact that Ohio law sets an awards cap on suits against government entities. In this case, Kloss explains, the cap would have been \$250,000 per plaintiff.

Kloss is quoted in the Columbus Dispatch as saying Kawamura is back in Japan and is doing "as well as can be expected" given the seriousness of her injuries. He said she had more than \$200,000 in medical expenses, but that

all were covered by insurance. Fortunately, Kawamura will not have to reimburse the insurer from the settlement proceeds.

The settlement has not been finalized but Doran and Kloss are confident in the outcome.

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