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Zion family gets \$11 million in semi crash that killed teen

A federal jury has awarded \$11 million to the parents of a Zion teenager who was killed last year when a semitrailer truck rear-ended his car, the family's attorney said Tuesday.

Alberto Davila Jr., 18, a graduate of Zion-Benton High School, died Aug. 24, 2002, after the semi hit the Honda Civic he was driving on U.S. Highway 41 in Beach Park.

"He was a terrific kid from a wonderful, close-knit, hardworking family," said attorney Robert Baizer.

Baizer filed a lawsuit on behalf of Davila's family against USF Holland, the Holland, Mich., firm that owned the truck.

An eight-member jury deliber-

ated for an hour Monday after a two-week trial in U.S. District Court in Chicago before awarding the family \$11 million.

The truck driver, Thomas Klatt, 59, of Appleton, Wis., was not ticketed, but an electronic device in Klatt's truck showed the truck was traveling at least 12 miles over the 45 m.p.h. speed limit just before hitting Davila's car and its brakes were not applied, Baizer said.

An 18-year-old passenger in the car also was killed.

Baizer described Davila as a talented soccer player who planned to attend the College of Lake County.

Attorneys for the trucking firm could not be reached.