



# **HERRMANN LAW GROUP**

AVIATION | PERSONAL INJURY | INSURANCE LAW

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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**PORTLAND, OR.** – Today, after a months long investigation conducted by the Herrmann Law Group, a civil rights action was filed on behalf of Derrick Dewayne Clark Jr.'s family, against Clackamas County, its deputies, and an Oregon State Patrol officer alleging allegations of excessive force, failure to provide medical care, assault, battery and negligence.

Herrmann Law Group, a Washington state law firm, is partnering with renowned civil rights attorney Ben Crump to represent the Clark family. This collaboration builds on their previous successful joint efforts in addressing cases related to police shootings.

Derrick's mother and his family want the truth known about the manner in which Derrick was shot in the back and left to die despite pleas for help.

The Oregon State Attorney General's office rushed to criminally investigate the case without presenting the grand jury with all of the evidence relevant to this action. Though the family has no power to criminally prosecute wrongdoing, it does have the power to bring all of the known information to light so that the public knows the truth.

The truth is that on June 18, 2022, just before his twenty-fifth birthday, Derrick was shot in the back by two police officers. Though the officers shot at him eight times as he ran away, Derrick did not immediately die. He lay near the officers, moaning for help, but the moans were ignored by numerous officers who were trained to render him medical aid.

The officers had no cause to pull Derrick over. They pursued him at high speeds in violation of their own policy and in violation of a direct command from a supervising officer. When Derrick attempted to pull over, the officer rearended him into a ditch escalating the matter further.

Not only did the officers shoot Derrick in the back. They also left him to die slowly while officers laughed, made jokes, referred to him as an animal, an "old boy" and otherwise ignored his suffering and rejected his humanity.

The only justification advanced by the officers was that Derrick was carrying a firearm but what they failed to tell the public is that he never pointed a firearm at them and a firearm was recovered nowhere near where Derrick's body lay before he died.

"When law enforcement shoot towards a person in the back, as they flee, numerous times under these circumstances, it undermines confidence in our institutions" said Mo Hamoudi of Herrmann Law Group. "When law enforcement refer to a human being as an animal, laugh at them, and ignore their pleas for help it does something worse: it contradicts everything we know as a society about what it means for our community police officers 'to protect and serve.' We as a society have an obligation to create an environment to support officers who hold accountable fellow officers who behaved in this case in the manner that they did."

Mo Hamoudi continued "The Clark family, who has strong ties to the state of Oregon, has long supported law enforcement but the manner in which law enforcement treated Derrick has permanently devastated them. They are devastated that not a single police officer has been held accountable for dehumanizing Derrick in the way in which he was dehumanized on June 18, 2022."

Out of respect for the family of Derrick Clark, Jr., who continue to mourn the loss, members of the family and attorneys will be available for comment at a later date.

#### **ABOUT HERRMANN LAW GROUP**

*Herrmann Law Group is a personal injury firm with offices in Seattle and Tacoma. Established in 1950, the firm represents victims of mass disasters, unlawful police shootings, defective products, automobile collisions, and other incidents causing injuries. Their high-profile cases include the crashes of Lion Air Flight JT 610 and Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302. The firm represents 50 victim families from the two crashes of the Boeing 737 Max 8. For more information, visit [hlg.lawyer](http://hlg.lawyer).*

#### **ABOUT BEN CRUMP LAW**

*Through his work, nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump has spearheaded a legal movement to better protect the rights of marginalized citizens. He has led landscape-changing civil rights cases and represented clients in a wide range of areas, including civil rights, personal injury, labor and employment, class actions, and more. Ben Crump Law is dedicated to holding the powerful accountable. For more information, visit [bencrump.com](http://bencrump.com).*

#### **ABOUT GRUBE OREHOSKI, PLLC**

*Grube Orehoski is a personal injury firm practicing in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Nevada with substantial experience in civil rights and police involved cases. Grube Orehoski will be acting as local counsel on this case.*

#### **ABOUT PARKER INVESTIGATIONS, LLC**

*Parker Investigations is a private investigation firm practicing in Oregon, Washington, and Colorado. Specializing in civil rights violations, the firm has been a steadfast advocate against police violence targeting BIPOC communities. Parker Investigations remains committed to justice, transparency, and the pursuit of a fair and equal society.*