

Bradenton Attorney Bernard Walsh Comments On The Volkswagen Emissions Cheating Scandal

BRADENTON, Fla., Oct. 13, 2015 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – Attorney Bernard F. Walsh of the Bradenton personal injury law firm Shapiro Goldman Babboni & Walsh weighs in on the VW emissions cheating scandal.

With Volkswagen's shocking admission to federal regulators that they have engineered a sophisticated software program specifically designed to fool emissions test equipment, the beleaguered German automaker will likely be facing historic fines, settlements and lawsuits.

Volkswagen advertised their new vehicles featuring TDI (Turbo Direct Injection) engines as so-called "clean Diesels." VW claimed that these revolutionary diesel engines are both powerful, fuel efficient and produce little toxic emissions. However after years of ongoing sales with more than 480,000 "clean diesels" sold in the United States, federal regulators discovered that the TDI engines only ran clean while hooked up to emissions testing equipment.

Volkswagen equipped the TDI engine with a cheat device that ran software that altered the engines function to reduce pollution output, but only when the engine was hooked up to emissions test equipment. Federal regulators also discovered that once the TDI engine was disconnected from the emissions test equipment, the levels of toxic gases soared to more than 40 times the allowable limits. Additionally, it has been determined that when VW's TDI engines are running clean and in compliance with emissions regulations, the performance of the engine is severely reduced from stated specifications in both engine power and fuel economy.

With nearly 500,000 vehicles sold in the U.S. equipping the cheat device, it has not taken long for both VW clean diesel owners and lawmakers alike to become upset and demand action from Volkswagen.

So far Volkswagen is facing separate lawsuits from the state of West Virginia, and a class-action lawsuit from VW owners in California, calls for a hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives and possible criminal charges. As VW's admission of this duplicitous action has only just been made public many more lawsuits are likely to follow both within the United States as well as the European Union.

The scandal's aftermath will affect more than just VW, and is rippling outward toward parts suppliers and other vendors as VW is asking their suppliers to cut prices in an attempt to save money for the anticipated wave of settlement lawsuits and fines.

Personal injury attorney and civil trial lawyer Bernard F. Walsh of Shapiro

Goldman Babboni & Walsh had this scathing comment of Volkswagen's actions, "Volkswagen's actions of intentionally lying and cheating their customers are inexcusable and infuriating. VW car buyers paid between \$1,000 and \$7,000 more for so called 'clean diesel' cars than the unleaded gasoline vehicles to have a car that is better for the environment. Instead they have just found out that not only does the TDI engine not meet federal clean air regulations, the TDI engines were far worse polluters than regular gasoline or standard diesel engines.

"Volkswagen's claim that just a handful of unscrupulous engineers including, Ulrich Hackenberg, Wolfgang Hatz, and Heinz-Jakob Neusser were responsible for the vast fleet of VW's with cheat devices is nothing more than a laughable attempt to avoid moral responsibility of the scandal. For its organized fraud and misrepresentation of the TDI vehicle line, Volkswagen will likely face record fines, class-action lawsuits and likely criminal charges. However this is little consolation to the hundreds of thousands of American car buyers who thought they were paying more to do the right thing for the climate change problem, and instead found out they have been taken for a ride by VW executives.

"With many car owners now owning vehicles that no longer will pass state emissions tests and have dropped significantly in resale value, it remains to be seen how VW and Audi plan on making amends with such an enormous number of vehicles to fix. To make matters worse VW does not currently have a fix that will bring the cars compliant, prompting some to call for VW to buy-back its cars. Whatever moves VW makes in the future, I can only recommend that owners of VW TDI models contact an attorney as soon as possible."

About Attorney Bernard F. Walsh:

A highly experienced AV rated attorney and founder of the Manasota Trial Lawyers Board, Bernard Walsh is an active member in multiple legal organizations including the Association of Plaintiff Interstate Trucking Lawyers of America (APITLA), the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, the Florida Justice Association, the National Trial Lawyers Association and the National Association of Distinguished Counsel.

Bernard Walsh is an active member of the Manatee and Sarasota Sheriff's Advisory Boards, the Florida Highway Patrol Advisory Council and the One Hundred Club for Law Enforcement in Manatee.

Partner at the Personal Injury and Civil Trial Law firm of Shapiro, Goldman, Babboni and Walsh, Bernard Walsh has helped hundreds of Floridians get fair compensation for injuries. Additionally, Bernard Walsh has won one of Florida's largest motorcycle accident recoveries and has an AV Preeminent® rating on Martindale-Hubbel®, a doctors and attorneys ratings website and is a Superb rated attorney with Avvo.com.

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