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“Schlesingers score big victories in Ohio auto-related actions

South Florida's Schlesinger family chalked up two big wins in Ohio earlier this month.

Fort Lauderdale personal injury attorney Sheldon Schlesinger, 62, got a preview of a Fathers' Day gift two days early - a \$5 million verdict against Toyota Motor Car of Japan and Toyota Motors Sales USA in Akron, Ohio.

Two days later, his son Scott, 34, celebrated by taking home his fourth consecutive title at the Nelson Ledges 24 hour Endurance Race in Warren, Ohio.

The elder Schlesinger successfully proved that a fuel pump failed on a 1987 Toyota Camry station wagon, causing a fiery accident that permanently scarred Richfield, Ohio businessman.

The verdict was Schlesinger's second against the Japanese car manufacturer. In a similar case in 1985, a Fort Lauderdale family was awarded 45 million after three young sisters burned to death in a crash of their 1973 Toyota Corona.

The younger Schlesinger, meanwhile, is staying away from Japanese cars, opting instead for a Volkswagen Rabbit while on the sports Car Club of America circuit. Scott Schlesinger and racing partner Alan Gelfand place first in their class, ninth overall in the 24 hour competition.