

Dean Alderman was quoted in a report posted to the Click2Houston.com website, as well as a report from KUHF-Houston Public Radio News regarding John O'Quinn.

The following report was posted to the Click2Houston.com website on Thursday, October 29, 2009:

O'Quinn, Employee Killed In Crash Second Person In Vehicle Also Killed

HOUSTON -- Prominent Houston attorney John O'Quinn was one of two people killed in a single-vehicle crash near downtown on Thursday, KPRC Local 2 reported.

Houston police said a Chevrolet Suburban jumped the median on Allen Parkway near Montrose Boulevard at about 8:15 a.m. It then slammed into a tree.

O'Quinn, 68, and Johnny Cutliff, an employee who worked for O'Quinn's firm for 26 years, died in the crash.

Police said O'Quinn was the driver.

Investigators blamed high speed, slick roads and no seat belts for the deaths.

O'Quinn was considered one of the top attorneys in the country and one of the top philanthropists in the Houston area.

"Everybody is taking it hard. John was a really big part of this university and a bigger part of the law school. A lot of people knew John. A lot of people have benefited because of what John's done for this school," said **Richard Alderman with the UH law school**.

"He has gone out of his way to help people that he never even knew. He has read the newspaper about people falling on hard times or having bad luck, and he's taken some action to do something with those people and to help those people," said Don Clark, O'Quinn's colleague.

O'Quinn, a graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, went over a decade without losing a case and made billions in the Texas tobacco settlement. He also played a prominent role for his exploits in asbestos, tobacco, silicone implants and fen-phen cases.

"I never saw him be as hard on anybody as he was on himself. He never was satisfied. You get a big judgment, you get a billion-dollar verdict, and the next day he's thinking, 'You know, I could have done better.' And he inspired you to try and do better," said Neil McCab, O'Quinn's colleague.

He also was prosecuted by the State Bar of Texas for how he obtained cases and found in contempt midtrial for sleeping in a jury room.

According to his law firm's Web site, O'Quinn was named one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America by the National Law Journal, one of the 100 Legal Legends of Texas by Texas Lawyer and one of the Five Best Texas Trial Lawyers of the Past Century by the Houston Chronicle.

John O'Quinn, Johnny Cutliff

O'Quinn was an avid car collector who once paid \$690,000 for a light blue 1975 Ford Escort GL once owned by Pope John Paul II. His collection also included hot rods, a Bat mobile and a limo from President John F. Kennedy's motorcade.

He once lost \$1.3 million when he put his collection in the hands of an ex-con, Zev Isgur, to take care of the collection and make it bigger. O'Quinn told him to find impressive cars anywhere in the world, then O'Quinn would approve the purchases and cut checks for any amount that Isgur would ask for.

O'Quinn became suspicious of Isgur's lavish lifestyle and discovered he was three dozen cars short.

Police said they had never been purchased and found \$800,000 of the money with Isgur's girlfriend, who was a stripper.

Letter From UH President On O'Quinn's Death

"My friends in the UH community:

"It is with deep regret and sadness that I inform you that the University of Houston has lost one of its most dedicated and passionate supporters. John O'Quinn died this morning, reportedly in a one-car accident on Allen Parkway, near downtown Houston.

"O'Quinn, a noted attorney and UH Law Center alumnus, served on our UH System Board of Regents from 1993 to 1999, holding the office of vice chairman from 1994-96.

"He worked tirelessly in behalf of this university and was one of its most generous financial contributors. The O'Quinn Law Library and O'Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium are the most prominent examples of his philanthropy at UH but are by no means the extent of it. Over the years, he made numerous gifts, including significant donations to the UH Library and to the Cougar Marching Band. A good deal of this school's success can be credited to John's unflagging commitment to making UH a better institution.

"On a personal note, I saw John recently, visiting with him at our homecoming football game against SMU. He was filled with his usual Cougar spirit and enthusiasm. The team's triumph, plus our national ranking, only added to his excitement. I am glad to have that wonderful memory of an exuberant John, reveling in the victory. But, win or lose, John was always unwavering in his support of the team and this university.

"Our campus mourns the loss of one of its most devoted friends and benefactors.

Renu Khator"

The following transcript is of a news report from KUHF-Houston Public Radio News:

Speed could be a Factor in Fatal Accident

October 29, 2009

by: Pat Hernandez

Famed Houston Attorney John O'Quinn and another man were killed this morning after their SUV slammed into a tree on Allen Parkway. He made a lot of his fortune in personal injury cases. He leaves a legacy through various causes, including at his alma mater, the University of Houston. Pat Hernandez has more.

Weather could be a factor in the morning accident. Scattered drizzle made the roads slick. Victor Senties is a spokesman for the Houston Police Department.

"Victims that were inside of a black Chevrolet Suburban were traveling westbound on Allen Parkway at apparently a high rate of speed. The vehicle at some point, crosses a median and strikes a tree, on the southside of Allen Parkway, and both victims were pronounced dead at the scene."

Senties says it was confirmed that O'Quinn was behind the wheel and not wearing a seat belt.

As a very successful trial lawyer, O'Quinn held some of the largest verdicts and settlements in the country most notably, the successful breast implant cases in the early 90s. His support for the UH, his alma mater, resulted in numerous gifts, including significant donations to the UH library which bears his name. **Richard Alderman is the associate dean at the UH Law Center.** He says O'Quinn was an important part of every aspect of the law center.

"We have several chairs at the University of Houston that John donated the money for. He was a huge supporter of our moot court and mock trial programs."

PH : "And besides him being so good at his profession, what was he like a person?"

Alderman : "Imposing...larger than life. There are very few lawyers that I've had contact with in one capacity or another that are more impressive than John."

His financial contribution at UH included the field house at Robertson Stadium and the Cougar Marching Band.

PH, KUHF-Houston Public Radio News.