

# *Top GM Lawyer Grilled by U.S. Senate Panel over Fatal Defect*

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Washington, July 19 (RHC)-- The top lawyer at General Motors has faced a grilling before a U.S. Senate committee over the company's failure to address an ignition switch defect for more than a decade. The defect, which prompted the recall of millions of cars, has been linked to at least 13, but potentially hundreds, of deaths.

Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri called the failures of GM's legal unit "stunning," saying the company's focus on minimizing its own liability had "killed innocent customers." She asked General Motors CEO Mary Barra why Michael Millikin, the head of GM's legal department, had not been fired. The head of General Motors claimed she was committed to "fix what happened in the company" and that Mike Millikin "is a man of incredibly high integrity."

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