## Compensation at the Crossroads

Autonomous Vehicles & Alternative Victim Compensation Schemes



Tracy Hresko Pearl
Texas Tech University School of Law

#### Federal Agency Investigates Tesla Crash; Driver Says Car Was On Autopilot

May 16, 2018 · 8:30 PM ET

VANESSA ROMO



## GOOGLE'S SELF-DRIVING CAR CAUSED ITS FIRST CRASH



Driver in first known fatal self-driving car crash was also driving so fast that 'he went so fast through my trailer I didn't see him', the truck driver involved said





**AUTO TECH** 

# Uber's fatal self-driving crash reportedly caused by software

The software that's supposed to detect objects in the road was tuned down, which caused it to ignore a pedestrian walking across a dark Arizona road, according to The Information.

BY ABRAR AL-HEETI, DARA KERR / MAY 7, 2018 11:29 AM PDT













1. How autonomous vehicle crash cases are handled is a critical issue for both manufacturers and consumers.

2. The U.S. tort system is currently ill-prepared to handle such cases.

3. A victim compensation fund offers a useful alternative.

#### **Advantages**

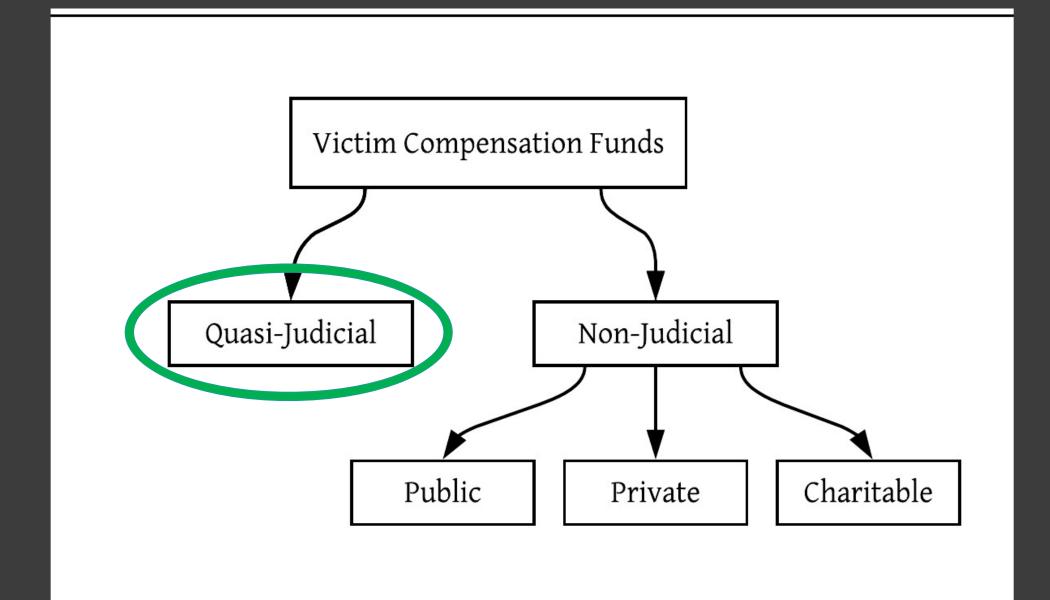
- 1. Well-established
- 2. Well-known/Understood (Kind of)
  - 3. Products Liability Jurisprudence

#### **Disadvantages**

- 1. Expensive & Time-Consuming
  - 2. Unpredictable
  - 3. Lack of AI Precedent









#### Quasi-Judicial VCFs

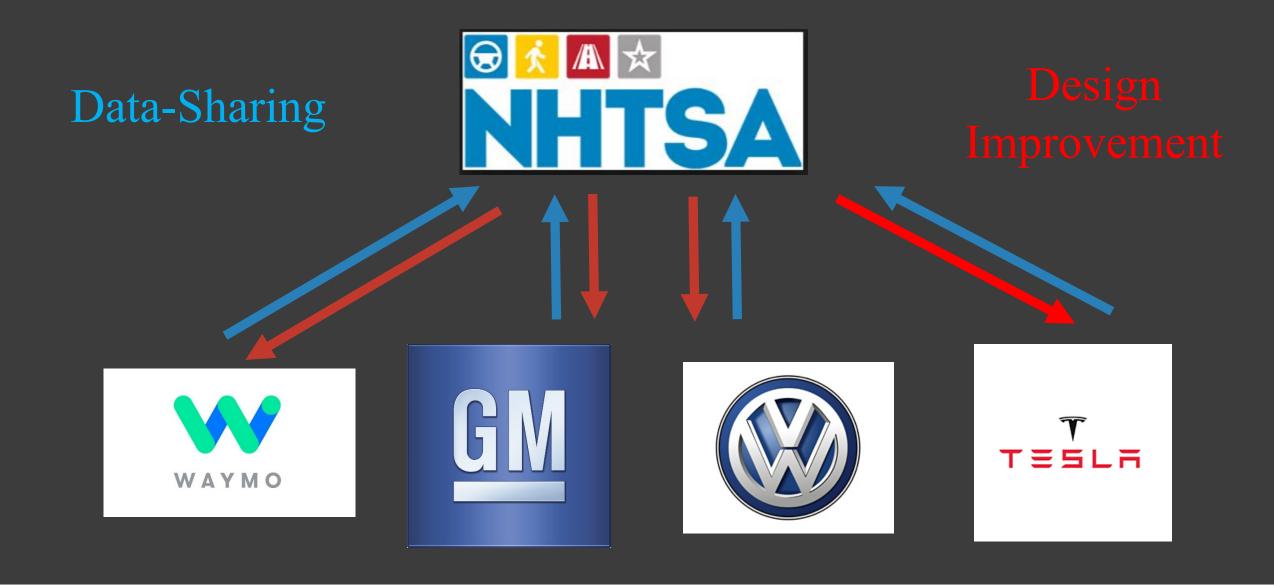
- Administered by a court or federal agency
- Funded by excise taxes or fines
- No-fault and non-adversarial
- Awards made pursuant to published tables or formulas



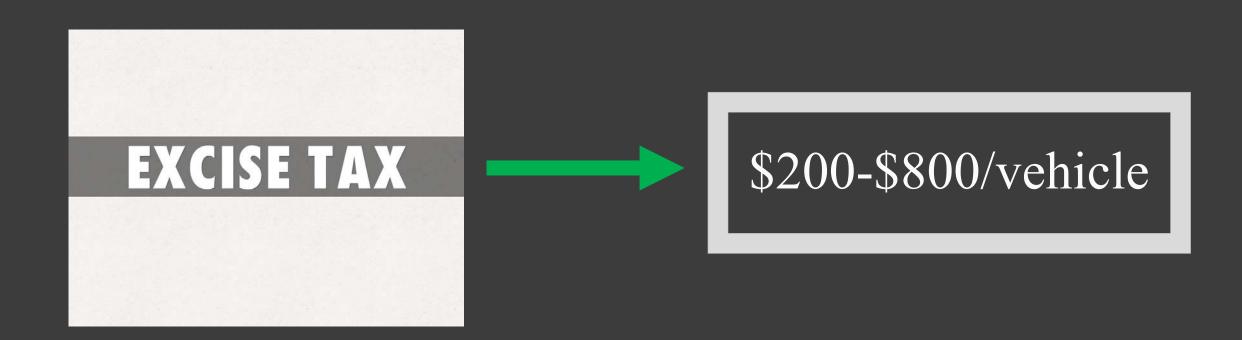
?



## Where is the Incentive to Improve?



### How Will We Fund the Fund?



## Can't We Just Rely on Private Insurance?

