

FLORIDA KEYS HOTEL POISONING VICTIMS SEEK CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR LEGISLATION

*Victims pursue pro-active legislation mandating carbon monoxide detectors
in boiler rooms of public accommodations.*

KEY WEST, FL – (January 17, 2007) – Twenty-four victims of last month’s carbon monoxide poisoning at the Doubletree Grand Key Resort hotel in the Florida Keys are pursuing both federal and state legislation that would protect hotel guests and ultimately prevent similar catastrophes from occurring in the future, according to their attorney.

At a press conference in Key West today, Ira Leesfield, legal counsel for the 24 victims from across Florida and the nation, announced plans to seek mandatory standards for, and placement of, carbon monoxide detectors in hotels and guest accommodations where boilers and other gas-heated equipment is utilized.

Leesfield, who represents these families in civil actions filed in Monroe County, Florida, also announced that he will match his fee with his client’s contributions in order to lobby for legislation that will prevent similar future catastrophes. According to Leesfield, he will request the victims’ families’ pool their punitive damages and recoveries, and will likewise contribute a matching portion of his fee towards pro-active legislation mandating carbon monoxide detectors in boiler rooms of public accommodations.

“In the civil actions, punitive damages recoveries will be earmarked towards this legislative campaign,” said Leesfield, managing partner of Miami-based trial law firm Leesfield & Partners.

On December 27, 2006, Thomas Lueder died of carbon monoxide poisoning and his father was seriously injured in room 416 of the Grand Key Resort in Key West. According to Leesfield, “The defect causing this tragic loss to the Lueder family was well known to the Doubletree Grand Key Resort hotel and had existed since defective repairs following Hurricane Wilma in October 2005.”

Leesfield has filed suit on behalf of an Iowa family who stayed in the exact same room which resulted in Lueder’s death one week later. These clients had complained to the hotel after being treated for carbon monoxide poisoning.

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Immediately following the press conference, Leesfield and a team of seven engineers and inspectors conducted an independent inspection of the Doubletree Grand Key Resort hotel.

About Leesfield & Partners, P.A.

Founded in 1975 and currently celebrating three decades of exceptional legal service in Florida, Leesfield & Partners is recognized throughout the country as one of the state’s premiere trial law firms, specializing in serious personal injury, wrongful death, aviation, maritime, motor vehicle accidents, product and premises liability, negligent security, medical malpractice and nursing home litigation. The firm’s headquarters are located at 2350 South Dixie Highway in Miami, with two satellite offices in Key West and Miami’s South Beach. The phone number to the Miami office is (305) 854-4900, or Toll Free at 800-

836-6400. Visit www.leesfield.com for more information.