

Petition

Leesfield Leighton Rubio Mahfood & Boyers | Trial Lawyers | Miami & Key West



**Volume 7, Number 2
Winter 2002**

A quarterly newsletter for lawyers and clients of Leesfield Leighton Rubio Mahfood & Boyers

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Put Us in *Your Favorite Places*,
and Guide to Litigation
Resources at www.Leesfield.com

This issue of petition features our recently updated web site with the hope that our friends will use the information we have compiled over the past decade. The back page of this issue highlights icons which provide links to a whole world of litigation support. Need an expert? Litigating a trucking, products liability, medical malpractice, nursing home or auto case?

Click **RESOURCES & RESEARCH**, and your problem may be solved! Also at your fingertips is valuable information on comparable settlements,

verdicts and a helpful guide to litigation in Florida. By clicking **FIRM PUBLICATIONS** and, in particular, past issues of **PETITION**, an index to all major legal topics is at your disposal.

Planning a visit to Florida? You will find



valuable information on an entire array of lodging, restaurants, family activities, and fun events throughout Florida and

the Florida Keys. (Click **ATLA 2002 WINTER CONVENTION** at www.Leesfield.com) We hope you will be our web guest and visit us for case support or just to enhance your trip to Florida.

Internet resourcefulness, hard work and client commitment brought about the following recent results for our clients. For more information, go to www.Leesfield.com

Back to Back \$850,000 Awards for Newly Named Partner Robert Boyers

With his trademark diligence, creativity and hard work, newly named Partner



Robert Boyers

Robert Boyers won two back to back **\$850,000** cases involving (1) medical negligence and (2) swimming pool design defects. The first case involved multiple medical defendants, resulting in the death of our 75 year-old client, leaving an 80 year-old husband as sole survivor. Immediately thereafter, Rob established that a malfunctioning suction jet in a lap pool located at a local spa caused severe internal injuries to our client when the spa failed to monitor, calibrate and maintain the pool's circulation system.

Nursing Home News: \$1 Million Settlement for 91 year-old Deceased

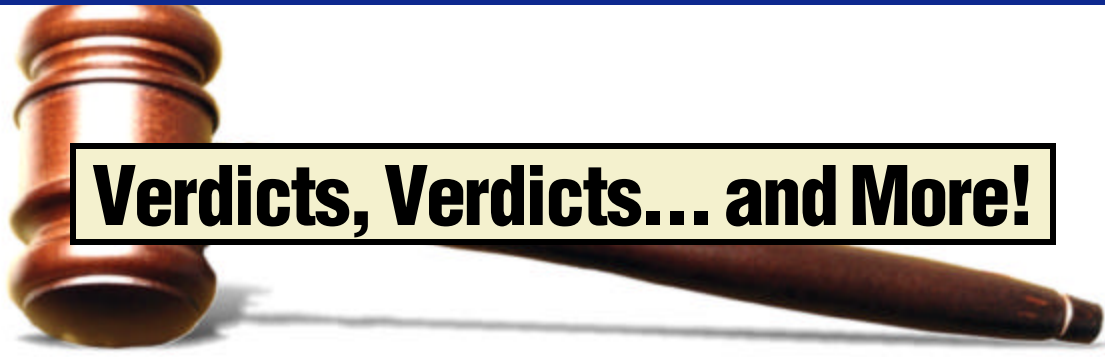
Maria Rubio and **Tom Scolaro** obtained a **\$1 million** award against a Miami-Dade County nursing home for the death of a 91 year-old Cuban-American mother. Just prior, Maria resolved a **\$575,000** wrongful death auto award for the death of a 37 year-old man.



Maria Rubio

Meanwhile, nursing home advocates **John Leighton** and **Tom Scolaro** achieved a **\$600,000** settlement for 88 year-old Amelia Sanchez who was severely neglected and abandoned at the nursing home, causing her to sustain two separate hip fractures, both requiring complete hip replacements and extensive rehabilitation.

A **\$500,000** settlement resulted for the family of a 75 year-old devoted husband and father. The decedent died of severe dehydration after a nine-day stay at the nursing home where he was not provided with basic minimum care.



Verdicts, Verdicts... and More!

“Soft tissue Injury” results in a \$1 Million Verdict

John Leighton does not typically handle soft tissue cases. However, the injury to our client, Sara Godur, was quite unique when she was knocked down by a case of Charmin toilet tissue while shopping at Costco. Sara, age 61, was reaching on a high shelf when the pallet of toilet tissue tumbled and knocked her to the ground, resulting in

serious multiple fractures to her leg and a **\$1 million** verdict in the 11th Circuit Court in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida (Case No. 00-33482 CA 02.)

Months earlier, John obtained a verdict on behalf of Harry Johns against Norwegian Cruise Line in the amount of **\$275,000**, for injuries received by an improperly secured

mooring line.

As we go to press, Mark Sylvester and John Leighton returned from the Orlando area with a \$500,000 settlement for a 37 year-old man who suffered extensive injuries to his legs in an auto-truck collision.



John Leighton

Vehicles Defects Yield Results in Excess of \$50 Million

With the December filing of *Jordan v. Suzuki Motor Corporation*, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, our firm continues protecting consumers injured as a result of negligent vehicle manufacturing and design. *Jordan* follows a legion of awards against Honda Motor Corporation, Suzuki Motor Corporation,

Kawasaki Motor Corporation, Chrysler Motor Corporation, and others, including a **\$20 million** verdict obtained by **Ira Leesfield** and **George**

Mahfood against the Honda Motor Corporation for the negligent design of a motorcycle sidestand.

Our firm has successfully

concluded product safety cases across the United States, including New York, California, Minnesota, Texas, Georgia, Illinois, Alaska, Pennsylvania and throughout Florida. (Click **U.S. RESULTS MAP** at www.Leesfield.com.)

The firm’s experience, document control and discovery continues to benefit new clients who pursue recoveries against negligent manufacturers.



Ira Leesfield

Puerto Rico Aviation Crash Concludes With Awards of \$8 Million and \$650,000

A long chapter of litigation history on behalf of the Rivas and Padilla families was successfully concluded in September 2001 with a settlement for Mariana Territo, whose common law husband was a passenger in a Cessna



George Mahfood

172N which crashed while touring Puerto Rico. The **\$650,000** settlement follows the previous award on behalf of the Rivas family in the amount of **\$8 million** and was the result of the tireless work of **George Mahfood, Maria Rubio** and **Patricia Kennedy** in Puerto Rico and Miami. Meanwhile, on the high seas, George recovered **\$500,000** for

the wrongful death of a cruise line passenger who drowned during a scuba diving expedition, leaving a surviving husband. The case was brought in Federal Court under “DOSHA” (Death on the High Seas Act).



Patricia Kennedy

“Say Cheese...” \$525,000 Results Against Cheesecake Factory

Our client was leaving Cheesecake Factory when she slipped on a foreign substance left on the floor by defendants, resulting in a broken hip. This case

was litigated and concluded within one year from the time of injury. “This award



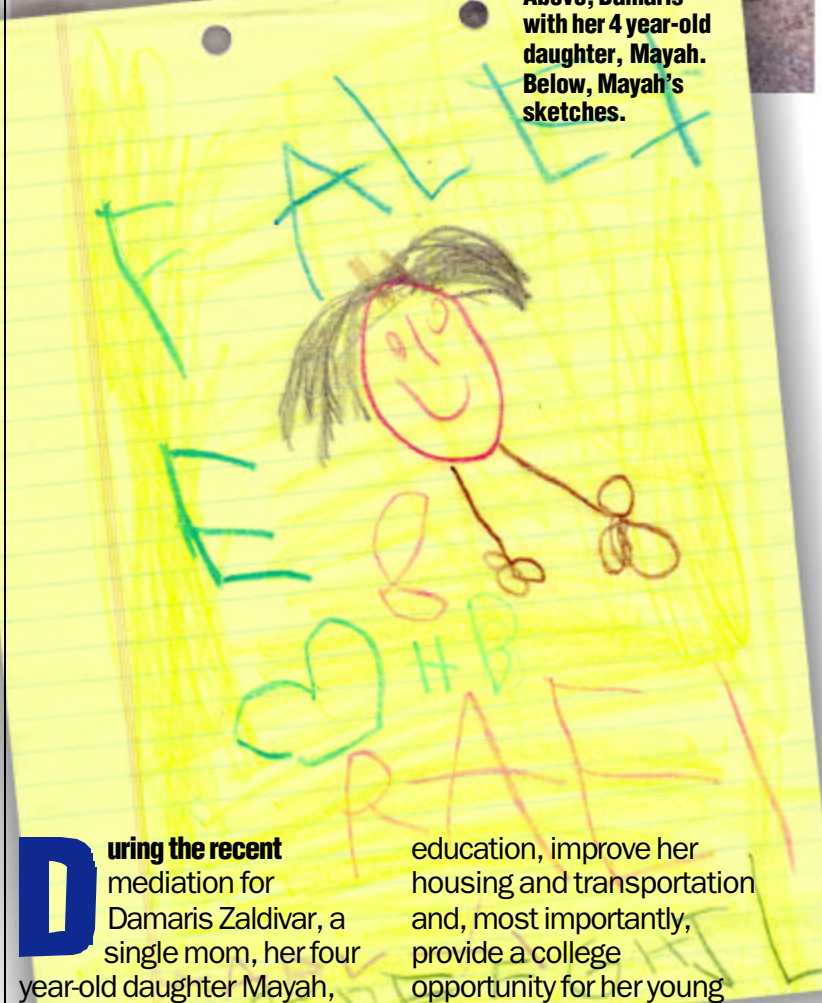
Tom Scolaro

will allow our client to visit and provide additional benefits to her ten grandchildren,” according to **Tom Scolaro** who impressively pursued this difficult case.



\$850,000 Auto Passenger Recovery

Above, Damaris with her 4 year-old daughter, Mayah. Below, Mayah’s sketches.



During the recent mediation for Damaris Zaldivar, a single mom, her four year-old daughter Mayah, was busy drawing “her version of life.” When the mediation was concluded with an **\$850,000** result, we were again reminded of the importance of our work, and what a difference we can make in our client’s life. “This settlement allows Damaris to finish her



Mark Sylvester

education, improve her housing and transportation and, most importantly, provide a college opportunity for her young daughter, Mayah,” according to **Mark Sylvester**, who dedicated himself to this case and its extraordinary result. “It was a pleasure working with Mark Sylvester on this case as he exemplified the professionalism our firm is so proud of,” said Ira Leesfield. For comparable verdicts and settlements, go to the **FLORIDA RESULTS MAP** at www.Leesfield.com

Counting on Katie

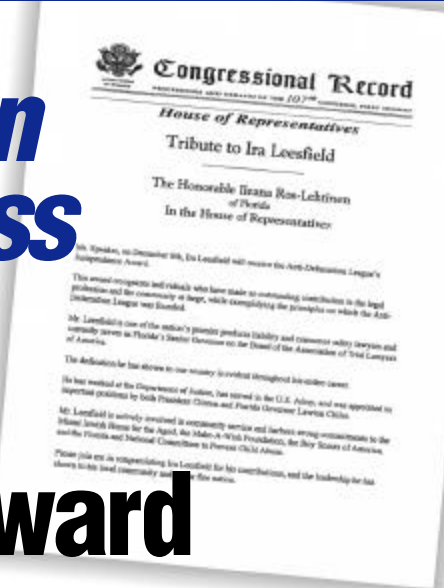
For fifteen years, Kate Barber has led the firm’s prayer at our annual Christmas party. Katie is a person steeped in a high work ethic, as demonstrated by her years of service to our firm and community. There is no job Katie can’t or won’t do to make our firm a better place to work

and our community a better place to live. For her years of dedication, industry and inspiration, we salute Katie Barber as a person of quality, character and accomplishment.



Katie Barber

President Clinton and U.S. Congress Pay Tribute to Leesfield at ADL Jurisprudence Award



Sonny Holtzman, Anti-Defamation League Luncheon Chair (right) presenting award to Ira Leesfield

On December 6, 2001, over 500 lawyers, judges and community leaders joined former President Bill Clinton and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen in honoring Ira Leesfield as he received the Anti-Defamation League 2001 Jurisprudence Award. President Clinton reviewed Ira's service to his Administration where he was appointed to two important posts. In his videotaped remarks, President Clinton spoke of Ira Leesfield as "a person who gets things done and makes a difference and someone who knows the true meaning of dedication and service to country."

Just minutes before, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen paid tribute to Ira Leesfield on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, congratulating him for his "outstanding contribution to the legal profession and the community at large . . . and the leadership he has shown to his local community and to our fine nation."

In his acceptance, Ira reflected on the events of September 11th emphasizing that, "Diversity is the bedrock of democracy, decency and progress in a harmonious world. As the United States engages in a battle abroad, we know that this is not a war against people that are different;

rather, it is a war against criminals who are deadly. As we continue this fight abroad, we must be constantly vigilant at home.

And, as we degrade our foes, we must never degrade our freedoms."

The Anti-Defamation League presents the Jurisprudence Award to those individuals who demonstrate the ideals of the Anti-Defamation League through their commitment to the field of law and their efforts in improving the quality of life bring together people of all races, religions and ethnic backgrounds to join in the fight against bigotry and discrimination.

For more information on this event, and the full text of the remarks of President Clinton and the Congressional Record Tribute, go to **NEWS & UPDATES** at www.Leesfield.com



President Clinton pays tribute to Leesfield. "I have learned to count on Ira as a friend and community leader, appointing him to important posts in my Administration. . ."

Firm Earns Back to Back Honors

For the second year in a row, Leesfield Leighton Rubio Mahfood & Boyers has been selected as one of South Florida's top law firms by the South Florida Legal Guide. Questionnaires were mailed to over 5,000 lawyers in South Florida asking them to recommend the top five lawyers in a number of practice areas.

The compiled list was then further reviewed by an independent group of lawyers who made the final selections.



Report to the Community: Aftermath of 9/11

Leesfield Leighton Rubio Mahfood & Boyers dedicates this issue of the Petition to the families who have been so tragically impacted by the events of September 11th. In an immediate response, our firm was honored to support the **September 11th Fund and the Dade County Bar Association's World Trade Center Relief Fund**. All our lawyers have

volunteered their services to the victims' families through ATLA.

Our support, respect and admiration for the heroic people of New York is ongoing. As always, the **Leesfield Family Foundation and Leesfield Leighton Rubio Mahfood & Boyers** continue to sponsor the following scholarships and community based organizations:

- Leesfield/ATLA Law Student Scholarship**
- Leesfield/Florida Association of Women Lawyers Law Student Scholarship**
- Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.**
- Legal Services of the Florida Keys**
- American ORT, Boston Chapter**
- Eating Disorders Awareness Prevention-EDAP**
- Multiple Sclerosis Foundation**
- Dade Community Foundation**
- University of Miami Sylvester Cancer Center Project Yes**
- Food for Life Network**
- The San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center**
- National Parkinson Foundation**
- Baptist Health Systems of South Florida**



Key West Office Hosts Conch Fritter Seminar

For the sixth successful year, our firm hosted the Case Evaluation and Conch Fritter Weekend at Mangoes Restaurant in Key West, Florida. An overflow crowd attended the Seminar, and later joined over 100 members of the local bar at the Conch Fritter celebration held at our Key

West office. Our firm has represented over 500 Monroe County families and visitors to the Florida Keys through our Key West office established in 1980.

For more information about our verdicts, Key West practice, maps and places of interest, go to **OFFICES** at www.Leesfield.com

Put Us in "Favorite Places"

EVERYONE AT Leesfield Leighton Rubio Mahfood & Boyers wants to share two of our favorite places with you. We hope our newly designed web site will become one of your favorite places for litigation support. Likewise, we know Florida, a state diverse in beauty and attractions, will remain one of your favorite places to visit.

Please review our home page and feel free to access valuable information that will advance your legal work and enhance your travels to Florida.

Researching a case on nursing home or elderly abuse? Need an expert in premises security or products safety? Litigating a maritime, aviation, or motor vehicle case? Have a tough legal question? Need instant access to medical research, including WebDoctor or Mayo Clinic Health? A complete index to medical technology and legal information is just a click away when you go to RESOURCES & RESEARCH.

Don't forget to visit our home page maps which provide an excellent basis of worldwide comparable verdicts and settlements. Information about our attorneys and staff or upcoming seminars is readily available at **ATTORNEYS, ATTORNEY and STAFF DIRECTORY and SEMINARS AND EVENTS.**

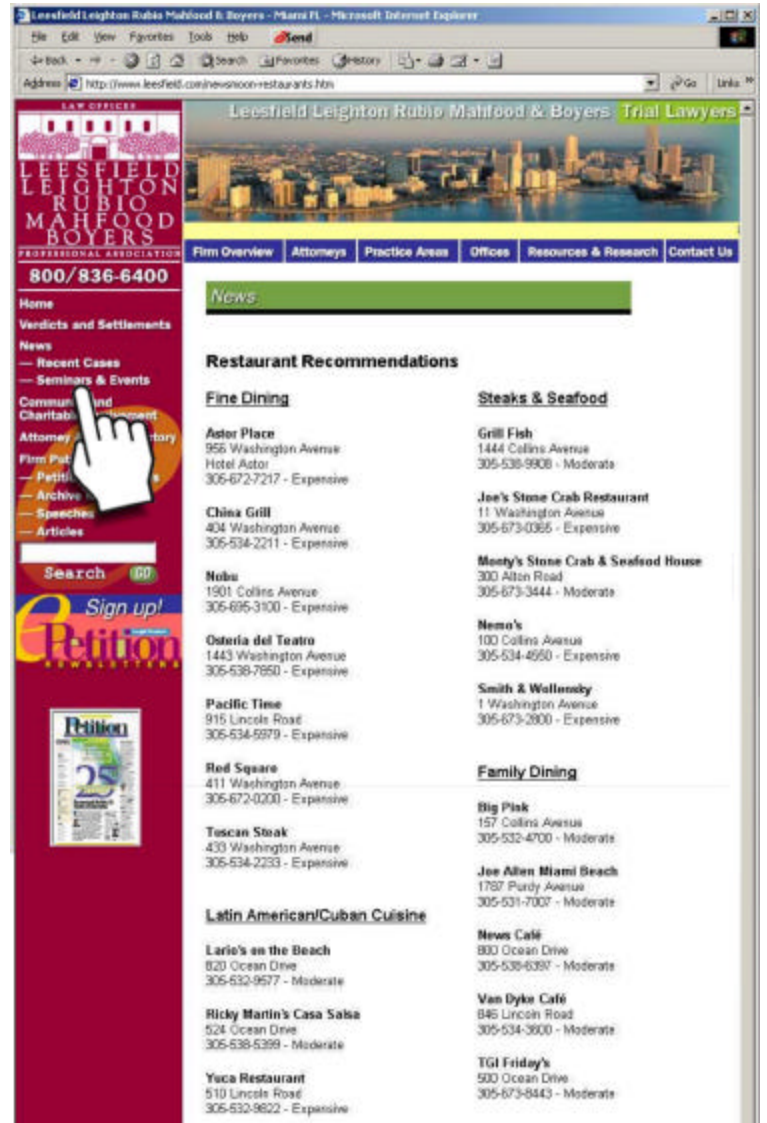
Whether you need information on the weather, visiting Florida resorts, selecting restaurants or family activities in Florida, www.Leesfield.com provides a good start to a great Florida trip.

So, put our favorite places in your "favorite place" while exploring our web site. Please let us have your comments and suggestions by e-mailing us at info@Leesfield.com.

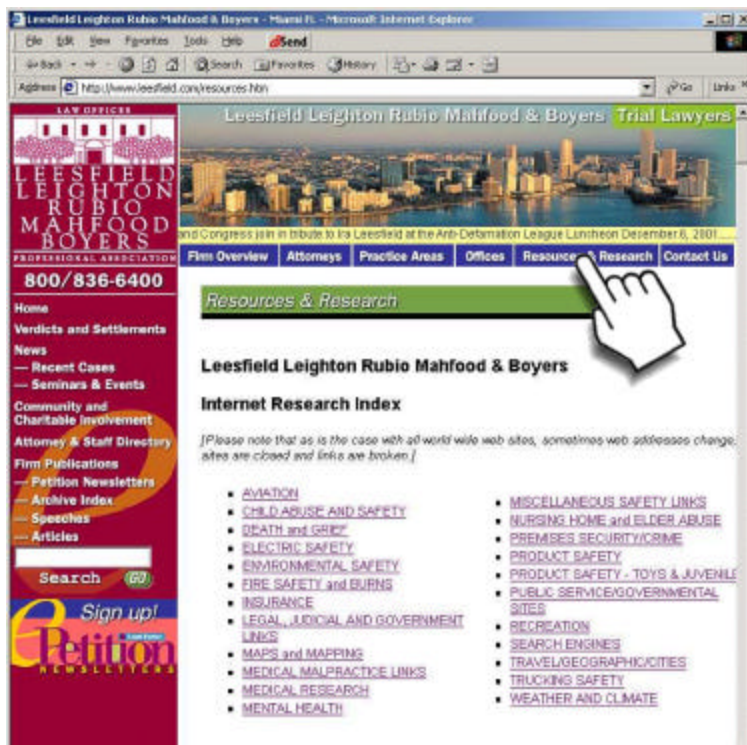
The lawyers and staff of Leesfield Leighton Rubio Mahfood & Boyers wish all of you a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.




Start at www.Leesfield.com with a recap of News and Updates... then **CLICK on **RESOURCES & RESEARCH** to learn more!**



Visiting Florida and the Florida Keys? A guide to South Florida attractions.



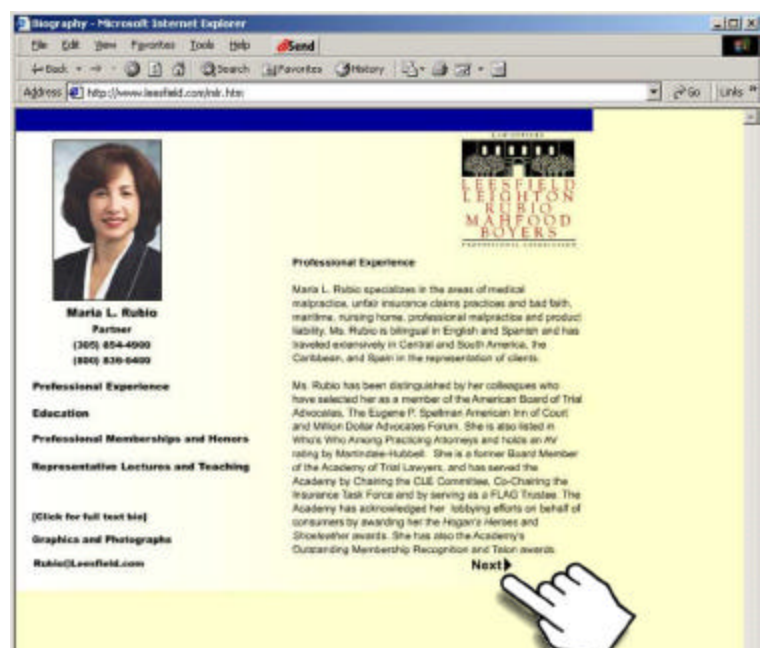
Click here for links to legal research and technical support in all litigation areas.



Looking for past issues of Petition and trial preparation material? Click at **PETITION NEWSLETTERS.**



Take a side trip to our comparable verdicts page as a guide to case evaluation.



Want to meet the lawyers at our firm? Find out more by **Clicking ATTORNEYS.**