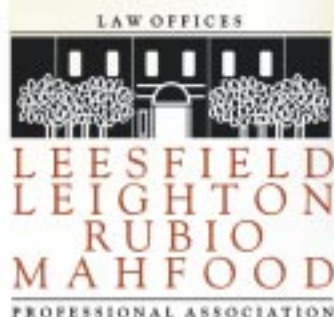


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LEESFIELD LEIGHTON RUBIO & MAHFOOD | TRIAL LAWYERS | MIAMI & KEY WEST



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

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Contents this Issue:

2

Partners in Profile
Report to the Community
Associates on the Move

3

New Web Site and European
Connection Launched
Miami Notes - Leesfield
Speaks on Holocaust
Key West Office Hosts ATLA and
Monroe County Bar Association

4

Cases from Other Places

Attorneys:

Ira H. Leesfield
John Elliott Leighton
Maria L. Rubio
George G. Mahfood
Robert B. Boyers
Patricia M. Kennedy
Mark A. Sylvester
Thomas Scolaro

LEESFIELD
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25TH
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

Teamwork Builds 25 Years of Success

Teamwork has been the cornerstone of our firm's success for 25 years. Founded in 1976, Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Mahfood has expanded its practice with offices in Miami, Key West and now reaching across the Atlantic to London to form the International Personal Injury Network (IPIN). Last month, the strong team effort of George Mahfood, Maria Rubio and Patricia Kennedy brought an **\$8 million** result and economic security to passenger Enrique Rivas who was severely injured in a small plane crash in **Puerto Rico**.



George Mahfood

In September 2000, John Leighton teamed up with **Indianapolis** counsel in obtaining a **\$3,000,000** recovery for a 24 year-old youth counselor who was left paralyzed in a negligent security action.

During the same year, John teamed up with **Houston** counsel to obtain a **\$900,000** settlement for the family of a 45 year-old woman who bled to death after gastric bypass surgery.

Claire Morbey (**\$800,000**) and Elaine Roots (**\$500,000**) traveled from the **United**



John Leighton

Kingdom to **Central Florida** with their families to enjoy the wonders of Disney World. In two separate actions, inattentive motorists ruined their vacations and impaired their lives. Ira Leesfield and Tom Scolaro combined their efforts with **British** counsel to overcome the obstacles of litigating from afar. (For more information on European claims in Florida, see related article on page 3.)

Leesfield and Mark Sylvester, working in Central Florida with **Chattanooga** trial counsel, provided two **Tennessee** families with just under **\$3 million** for the wrongful deaths of plaintiffs' husbands.

In Miami, when a **New York** family man and breadwinner was killed in a truck collision, Leesfield and Sylvester worked to obtain a wrongful death settlement to lessen the tragedy for this family in under one year. A **\$1,850,000** recovery allowed



Ira Leesfield

for continued schooling of our young client and peace of mind for her mom. Other examples of

New York clients' recoveries in Florida include the Casanova family, **\$1,300,000**; John Scolaro, **\$3,000,000**; family of P.G., **\$325,000**.

When Marisa Rodriguez heard of her father's death in Miami, she called a prominent law firm in **Michigan** which immediately selected our firm as co-counsel in Miami resulting in a **\$400,000** wrongful death settlement for this 72 year-old retired landscaper.

Meanwhile, in neighboring **Wisconsin**, counsel needed representation in the Florida Keys. In less than one year, the family of Stephen Rahn received a **\$975,000** settlement through the efforts of Robert Boyers. (See Partners in Profile.)

Each of these results was enhanced by the teamwork approach of our attorneys, investigators, paralegals, assistants and, of course, co-counsel in and out of Florida.

Partners *in* Profile

Maria Rubio Honored by National Hispana Leadership Institute

Partner Maria Rubio was selected as a fellow for the National Hispana Leadership Institute for the year 2001. This leadership institute recognizes distinguished Hispanic women in positions of national influence. Maria's commitment to the community is paralleled by her dedication to our firm. Starting as a law clerk in 1985, Maria has continued on a path of success to senior partner.

"She is a total team player having made a huge

commitment to our firm for the past fifteen years," according to Partner John Leighton.

In addition to her active practice, including service to our Central and South American clients, Maria continues on the cutting edge of insurance, health, medical negligence, bad faith litigation, and complex personal injury litigation.

Recent results include a verdict of **\$1,124,352** in the case of *Reich v. Curtis Benjamin Fields*, and completion of the *Rivas*

aviation matter for **\$8,000,000**.

Maria has been honored by the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers and is recognized as one of Florida's leading women trial lawyers.

She is a member and past officer and director of the Coalition of Hispanic American Women, and an active member of the Cuban American National Foundation.



Maria Rubio

Report to the Community: Scholarships Increased



Associate Patricia Kennedy [left], Judge Ellen Leesfield [center], and Partner George Mahfood with recipients of the Leesfield/FAWL Law Student Scholarships.

The Leesfield Family Foundation and Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Mahfood, P.A. are proud to report to the community their increased support in law student minority and women scholarships for the year 2001. The Leesfield/ATLA Law Student Scholarship has been doubled, our commitment to women law students through the Miami-Dade County Chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers (FAWL) has been increased, and this year we proudly expanded our contributions to include the National Bar Institute Scholarship. The Florence Griffith Joyner Scholarship for women athletes continues in honor of "Flo Jo."

Our commitment to community giving includes support of the following organizations:

- Adopt-A-Classroom
 - Aids Walkathon
 - American Cancer Society
 - American Heart Association
 - American Red Cross
 - Easter Seal Society
 - Eating Disorders Awareness & Prevention
 - Food for Life Network
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, Inc.
 - Key West Summer Baseball Program
 - Make-a-Wish Foundation
 - Project Yes
 - Voices for Children of Dade County
- For information about our scholarship program and the organizations we support, please visit our web site at www.Leesfield.com.

Robert Boyers: a Team Player

Our Partner Robert Boyers wanted to be a trial lawyer for as long as he can remember.

He began honing his trial and litigation skills long before he was admitted to the Bar 11 years ago. Of course, he was lucky to have had a great role model - his father! Seymour Boyers is a renowned New York City trial lawyer and former New York Appellate Division judge who set high standards of ethics and excellence for his son.

Since graduating law school, Robert served as a felony trial prosecutor in

the Queens County District Attorney's Office and practiced with a major personal injury law firm in Manhattan before joining our firm in October 1996.

He recently spoke to the New York State Bar Association on the topic of "Demonstrative Evidence."

Rob's team approach served him well in attaining a **\$2.2 million** malpractice settlement in southwest Florida with **Maryland** co-counsel, a **\$975,000** settlement with **Wisconsin** counsel for the widow of a Florida Keys welder and a **\$750,000** award for the mother of a young South Florida student.

Rob and his wife Amy are active in the South Florida community where he serves on the Board of the Dade County Trial Lawyers Association and on the Civil Rights Committee of the Anti-Defamation League.

We are proud of Robert Boyers' fine work and client service in the areas of complex personal injury and medical malpractice.

Mr. Boyers is admitted to the Florida, New York and Connecticut bars.



Robert Boyers

Associates *on the Move*

Senior trial lawyer, Patricia Kennedy, supports our firm's diverse trial practice working on



Patricia Kennedy

commercial litigation, class actions and a myriad of tough legal issues. Pat provided valuable support in the *Rivas* matter (see page 1), along with a number of other great successes during the year. "Pat's efforts show how teamwork pays off," says Partner George Mahfood. This was an incredibly

important year for Mark Sylvester and Tom Scolaro. Mark assisted in obtaining a verdict of **\$275,000** in the case of *Johns v. Norwegian Cruise Lines*. Additionally, Mark concluded a **\$410,000 Central Florida** settlement in a wrongful death in less than six months.

In the same time period, Tom Scolaro resolved an important nursing home matter with a **\$400,000** result. Other nursing home results include



Mark Sylvester

a **\$600,000** recovery for Amelia Sanchez, providing better quality of care for this 88 year-old woman.

Both Mark and Tom are fully engaged in an active trial practice and upholding the firm's tradition of involvement in important professional associations, including the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers.



Tom Scolaro

Firm Salutes Gloria Dobal for 25 years of Service

It is a story often told at firm meetings.

The arrival of Gloria Dobal in December 1976. Our first employee! Her office consisted of an Olivetti manual typewriter perched on a makeshift table.



Gloria Dobal

Over the last 25 years, Gloria has moved through the ranks and is now Comptroller of our entire operation. Her dedication to this firm has only been surpassed by her commitment to her family.

For the spirit, leadership and history she brings this firm, we salute Gloria Dobal in this 25th anniversary issue.

Watch Our Web Work for You

www.Leesfield.com: Your Research Source

Want to know how to defeat Daubert motions? Need to find experts in medical malpractice or inadequate security cases? Looking for documents in product liability cases? Filing an aviation or maritime case? In need of comparable verdicts, settlements or legal research on specific topics? Evaluating a class action?

Our new web site is a great starting point on these

topics. The site is a resource for lawyers and the general public to evaluate their cases. It is chock-full of web site links, legal, medical and technical resources, as well as indexes of articles, speeches and publications. We have posted past issues of our Petition newsletters, as well as CLE lectures and publications by firm lawyers.

By using the search engine or index at the site,

you can find information on dozens of subjects, and our list of web site links is a great technical resource that is regularly updated. Hundreds of helpful web sites are just a click away.

The new site has been designed to be user-friendly and easy to navigate, filled with useful information and links. It is a lot of fun! So, stop by www.Leesfield.com even if you are just looking for the best restaurants in Key West.

The screenshot shows the website's header with the firm name and 'Trial Lawyers'. Below is a navigation menu with links for Firm Overview, Attorneys, Practice Areas, Offices, Resources & Research, and Contact Us. A central banner reads 'Representative Verdicts and Settlements' with three maps: International Results, Florida Results, and United States Results. A sidebar on the left lists various services like 'Verdicts and Settlements', 'News', and 'Community and Charitable Involvement'. A search bar and a 'Sign up! Petition Newsletters' button are also visible.

Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Mahfood Expands European Practice



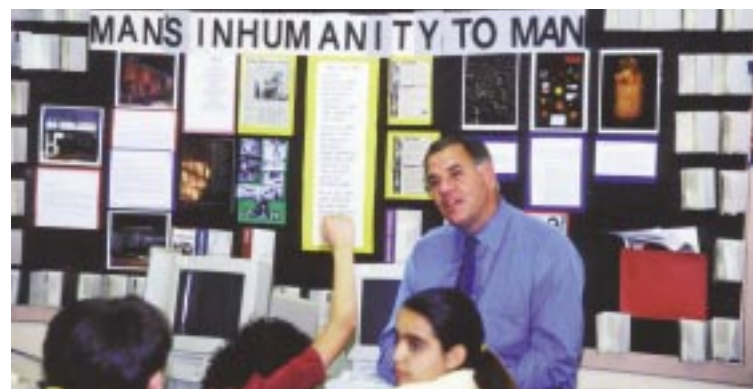
This year finalizes our firm's association with two leading U.S. and British law firms to better serve our European clients.

The consortium of International Personal Injury Network (IPIN) between Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Mahfood, P.A. and United Kingdom counsel gives us the opportunity to assist Americans injured on foreign soil, as well as helping foreign travelers injured in the United States.

For complete information, see our web site at www.Leesfield.com or request a brochure by calling 800/836-6400.



Leesfield Shares Holocaust Experience at Sunset Elementary School.



When President Clinton appointed Ira Leesfield to the Holocaust Commission, he challenged him with the responsibility of writing a new chapter of American history.

At Sunset Elementary School in Miami, Florida, the fifth grade class was eager to learn and understand how the atrocities of the Holocaust could happen. So, Leesfield spent an afternoon with these students in a free-flowing exchange on the Nazi era, the horrors and crimes committed against the

European Jews. Every student in the class had questions, comments and thoughts to share. This experience was best summed up by one fifth grader who wrote, "Thank you so much for coming to visit our class. You taught us a lot of important things... and helped us expect the unexpected. Thank you for using your job to help families and people recover the past."

Said Leesfield, "the story of the Holocaust must be repeated so that no generation will ever experience it again."



Key West Office Hosts ATLA and Monroe County Bar Association

No kidding, the above photo is an actual view of ATLA/NCA's sunset cruise around the island, hosted by Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Mahfood. There was plenty of work during the day, but NCA Trustees could not stop photographing this magnificent sunset.

Speaking of work and fun, our firm again sponsored the Monroe County Bar Association luncheon, presenting a CLE Ethics Seminar, followed by our annual conch fritter festivities that evening.

This year, our firm's verdicts and settlements in Key West and the Florida Keys include a **\$975,000** wrongful death recovery, a **\$750,000** medical malpractice award and a **\$600,000** wrongful death recovery relating to nursing

home abuse. Last year, our firm celebrated its 20th year in practice in Key West, representing residents of Monroe County and visitors from the United States and around the world. Our practice in Key West mirrors the work we do in Miami, with the distinction of working in a small caring community. Thanks to our co-counsel and friends in Key West and the Florida Keys for their continued confidence. Please be sure to stop by and see the restorations to our historic office in Key West located at 615^{1/2} Whitehead Street.

For visitors information on Key West, please call our office at 800/836-6400 or click www.Leesfield.com for a map of Key West and a look into our offices.

See you in the Conch Republic!

Cases from Other Places

Florida's diversity, with hundreds of miles of sparkling beaches, beautiful year-round weather and family attractions make it a prime global destination for over 30,000,000 worldwide visitors annually.

Celebrating our 25th anniversary, we look back at the opportunities we have had to litigate **cases from other places**. Over the years, we have proudly co-counseled important matters with lawyers throughout the United States, and now, most other continents. Our new working agreement with counsel in London will provide even better service to our European clients. (See article on page 3.)

Just recently, we began litigation on behalf of a South African family injured in the Florida Keys and concluded two important cases from England and Spain. We send special thanks to our friends at home and abroad for the opportunity to work on so many interesting and challenging matters.

