

Petition

Via Fax

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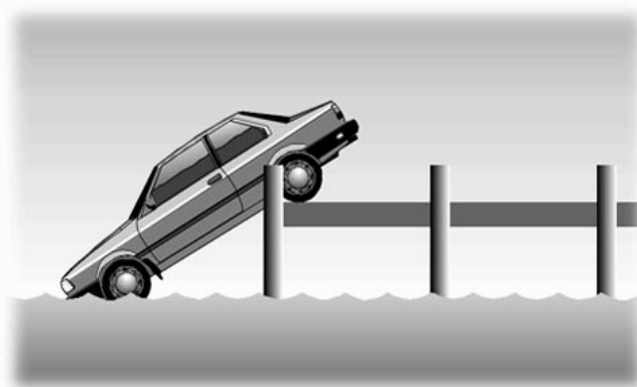
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Federal Judge Awards \$2.95 Million in Wrongful Death Drowning Cases

“Ivan Grayson, tormented by the mind numbing horror of the tragedy that wiped his family from the face of the earth, desperately needs to know why this happened.”

— U.S. District Judge James Lawrence King
748 F.Supp. 854

In a landmark Federal Torts Claims Act opinion, Judge James Lawrence King awarded Ivan Grayson \$2.95 million for the loss of his wife and two young daughters resulting from the Navy’s failure to maintain its pier in a safe condition. **LLR** partner **Ira Leesfield** was lead counsel. The Court noted that Mr. Grayson was a “loving father of his two daughters, age 18 months and 3 years old” and that “he cared immeasurably for them. “Following the reasoning in *Williams v. United States*, 681 F.Supp. 763, Judge King found the analysis of the *Williams*’ Court to be of



particular help in ascertaining the trend of damage awards which allowed the compilation of similar Florida wrongful death actions involving deceased minor children and determined the average award in Florida to be approxi-

mately \$900,000 for a parent who suffered the loss of a young minor child. See also; *Johnson v. United States*, 780 F.2d 902, 908 (11th Cir. 1986) awarded \$1.8 million dollars for the parents of the young minor child.

Leesfield submitted a compilation of 19 wrongful death verdicts and settlements from Courts in South Florida upon which Judge King based his findings.

The Court likewise received testimony from a grief counselor on the issue of the survivors’ loss of companionship, pain and suffering. (See Website Insert, Page 2.)



Key West Happenings

A Southernmost Celebration!



Leesfield, Leighton & Rubio will be celebrating their 20th anniversary at the firm's Key West office on February 7, 1997. Invited guests include Congressman Peter Deutsch, clients and friends of the firm.

For further information, call Grace at 1-800-836-6400.

Key West Continuing Legal Education

"Computer Litigation and Advances in Law Office Technology" will be presented by **Leesfield, Leighton & Rubio's Ira Leesfield** and **Steve Kozlowski** on Feb 18, in Key West to the Monroe County Bar Association. The monthly meeting will be held at Mangoe's Restaurant, 700 Duval Street from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. CLE credit has been applied for. Seating is limited, please call Judy at (305) 296-0655.

Help with your Client's Grief



There is no case more emotionally charged than one involving the loss of a child or close family member.

A grief expert can help alleviate the family's pain and assist trial counsel in explaining the terrible emptiness and void experienced by survivors. In addition to the *Grayson* case, **Leesfield, Leighton & Rubio** has used grief counseling in *Vega v. Silver Express* (\$3 million dollar settlement); *Helms v. NAP* (\$2.9 million dollar settlement); *Fundora v. Gables Professional Building* (\$1.8 million dollar settlement).

Recently, the 4th DCA noted that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in admitting expert testimony on grief and bereavement in *St. Mary's Hospital, Inc. v. Brinson*, 94-2130 citing the Florida Supreme Court's opinion in *Angrand v. Key*, 657 So.2d (Fla.1985), holding that the grief expert's testimony would assist the jury in understanding the magnitude of the loss. (See Websites below)

WWW Grief Resources

Bereavement & Hospice Support Netline:

<http://ube.ubalt.edu/www/bereavement/>

Coping With the Loss of a Loved One due to an Automobile Accident: <http://www.netmediapro.com/add/grieving.htm>

Practical Suggestions on how to Cope With Death: <http://chadmarc.net/services/day/coping.htm>

How to Help the Bereaved: <http://chadmarc.net/services/day/coping.htm>
#Bereaved

Tips for Helping Those who are in Mourning: <http://www.opn.com/willowgreen/tips.html>

Bereavement Education Center: <http://bereavement.org/>

Grief Net: <http://rivendell.org>

Grief & Healing Discussion Page: <http://www2.dgsys.com/~tgolden/wwwboard/wwwboard.html>



A note about this month's WWW addresses. **Leesfield, Leighton & Rubio** strongly suggests that this information be clipped and saved.