

Petition Via Fax

From the Florida Offices of **Leesfield Leighton Rubio** Trial Lawyers

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Representing Burn Survivors

Honeymoon Nightmare

Joerg Schulz lost his wife, Regina, on their honeymoon in the Dominican Republic as a result of a gas leak at the defendant's resort. Faced with \$1.7 million in medical bills and a honeymoon turned nightmare, attorneys at **LLR** undertook representation of both the wrongful death and personal injury burn cases.



newlyweds. **LLR's George Mahfood, John Leighton** and **Steve Kozlowski** brought suit in Dade County against the Dominican based hotel operator and other defendants. Both the wrongful death and personal injury burn cases were settled pursuant to a confidentiality agreement.

**\$2,950,000 TV Fire/
Wrongful Death**

—Special Note on Forum Non Conveniens

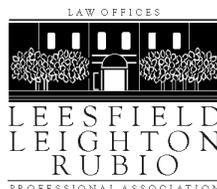
All defendants moved to dismiss the suit contending that Miami was an inconvenient forum for this Dominican based explosion. The trial judge rejected their contention, finding Dade County to be the appropriate forum to bring this action. The case was settled while on appeal to the 3d DCA. Case No. 96-01739 CA 15. Schulz v. Allegro Resorts Management Services, et al.

A gas leak from improperly capped piping ignited the plaintiffs' hotel room when the light switch was turned on, resulting in an explosion with third degree burns to both

LLR won a **\$2,950,000** award against Magnavox, manufacturer of the family's TV set, Sears as distributor of a defective smoke detector and the plaintiffs' condominium association for fire safety violations. The Helms family lost their 13 year old daughter in this fire and Mr. Helms suffered burns over 30% of his body as he tried to rescue her. *Helms v. NAP Consumers Electronic Company (Magnavox), Sears Roebuck and Company and Ludlum Lakes Association, Inc.* For further information on appliance fire safety see:



<http://www.hlp.com/EGResSafety3.html>
<http://www.spectra.net/~jcfcd/disable.html>



Roofing Construction/Burns



\$862,000 was awarded to **LLR's** clients who were severely burned when hot tar was spilled on them by the defendant Montgomery Roofing Co. The plaintiffs were working on the ground

floor of a residential building when defendants spilled a bucket of hot tar on the roof and through the open skylight. "Adherence to OSHA regulations as well as state and county ordinances and statutes would have protected these burn victims from the excruciating pain and tissue loss resulting from hot tar being spilled on portions of their bodies," according to **LLR's Ira Leesfield**. *Acosta/Rodriguez v. Montgomery Roofing Co. And Babcock Company.*



Foreign Ship Explosion Litigated in Florida

Maria Rubio reports another victory in the forum non conveniens area with a **\$765,000** award for burns resulting from the explosion of ammonium nitrate, fertilizer and

gasoline aboard the defendant's vessel. Defendant's cargo of ammonium nitrate, fertilizer and bulk gas was a dangerous combination. While the cargo was being off-loaded, an on-board spark from the portable gas pump ignited the cargo resulting in severe burns to the plaintiffs. Discovery by **LLR** found the vessel was unseaworthy and the crew inadequately trained. *Estate of Darville and Estate of Roxbury v. Norwood Rahming, St. Augustine International, Ltd., et al.*

Special Considerations in Representing Burn Victims

Every year an estimated 20,000 people die in fires and 100,000 Americans are hospitalized with fire related injuries. Many of these tragic losses are preventable through the exercise of common sense fire safety and prevention (see Website insert this issue.)

Fire Safety and Burn Litigation Websites

Burn Survivor Resource Page

<http://www.vanserve.org>

Fire and Safety Resource Page

<http://www.firesafe.com>

Water Burn Information Page

<http://pen.ci.santa-monica.ca.us/pen/cityhall/publicsafety/fire/fire3.html>

First Aid for Burns

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/fire/tip2.htm>

Burn Prevention Foundation Page

<http://www.ot.com/burn-prevention>

Children's Fire Safety Page

<http://www.sosnet.com/safety/fire.safety.index.html>

Flammable Fabrics Act

15 USC §1191, et. seq.

Medical information helpful to understanding burn treatment:

1. Rakel, Robert E., M.D., Conn, Howard F., M.D., and Johnson, Thomas W., M.D., (eds.): Chapter 37, Surgery—Thermal Burns, *Family Practice, 2d Ed.* Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Company, 1978
2. Rosen, Peter, M.D. (Sr. Ed.): Environmental Injuries, Sec. 4, *Emergency Medicine Concepts and Clinical Practice, Vol. One*, St. Louis, The C. V. Mosby Company, 1983
3. Wyngaarden, James B., M.D. and Smith, Lloyd H., Jr., M.D. (eds.): *Cecil Textbook of Medicine, Sixteenth Edition.*

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