

Petition

Via Fax

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Electrocution Deaths Occur With Shocking Frequency



Most Americans assume that the electrical appliances and fixtures that are a part of everyday life are safe for use. Too often those same devices cause the needless death of consumers. In fact, electrocution death is the fifth leading cause of accidental death in the United States. The odds of

someone dying from electrocution is 1 in 5,000.

Each year 280,000 Americans are hospitalized due to electrical shocks. One out of every 7 shocks results in death. Many of these deaths are preventable and were caused by negligence and carelessness. Often a defective or improperly wired product is the culprit.

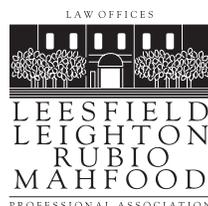
Leesfield, Leighton, Rubio & Mahfood has handled many electrocution cases over the years, and all have one common thread: the deaths could have been easily prevented. Below are a few representative cases:

\$5.25 Million Recovery For Poolside Electrocution Of Business Executive

Gary Batz ran an international industrial safety equipment company in Kansas City. He built it into one of the most successful and respected firms in its field. In 1997, just months after he and his wife Sally moved into their beautiful new home, Gary was sitting in his spa with friends. A landscape light was shining in their face, so Gary got out to adjust it. He was electrocuted when he touched the improperly wired light fixture. The fixture's ground has never been properly secured, and a short had developed. **LLRM's Ira Leesfield** and **John Leighton** brought suit against the developer, electrical contractor and landscape architect, and this year obtained a \$5.25 million settlement as a result of the death of this wonderful 49 year-old father of three boys. *Batz v. First Florida Development*, Martin County, Fla. Circuit Court.

Boy Electrocuted While Touching Light Pole On Expressway: \$1,265,000 Settlement

Like most young boys, Jimmy Dietrichson was curious about his environment. While walking along the South Dade Expressway, he touched an adjacent light pole. He was immediately electrocuted because the internal wiring had come loose and was touching the metal pole from inside. Although these problems were well known to the State and its contractors, and the access plate to the pole had been removed, no inspections or testing ever took place. Jimmy's parents, represented by **LLRM's Ira Leesfield**, sued the state and the contractors, including the architectural and electrical consulting firms. *Dietrichson v. DOT, et al.*, Dade County, Fla. Circuit Court.





\$2.95 Million: Appliance Fire Kills 13 Year-old Girl

An electrical fault in a defective television set resulted in a fire that killed a 13 year-old girl and injured her father. A product liability suit was brought against the manufacturer of the television. **LLRM** obtained a \$2.95 million settlement for the family as a result of this tragedy. *Helms v. Magnavox*, Dade County, Fla. Circuit Court.



"Hot" Fence Results In \$450,000 Settlement

Brian Hembd opened a gate that was attached to a fence that was improperly energized from a nearby hot wire. The current ran through his body and left him with neurologic injuries. **LLRM** obtained a \$450,000 settlement due to the negligence of the defendant. *Hembd v. Florida Power & Light*, Dade County, Fla. Circuit Court.

Boy On Boat Lift Is Electrocuted: \$1,135,000 Verdict

A 12 year-old boy was swimming with his friends in a canal behind the one of their homes. He grabbed onto an electric boat lift to get out of the water. One of the children on the dock turned on the device to lift the boy, and he was electrocuted. The lift was improperly wired, and the homeowner had even gotten a mild shock in the weeks before this tragedy. **LLRM's John Leighton** represented the father of the young boy. A jury awarded the parents \$1.135 million as a result of this needless tragedy. The electrical contractor's license has been permanently revoked. *Sassin v. Hammond*, Collier County, Fla. Circuit Court.



Firm Celebrates 22nd Anniversary By Funding Scholarship

LLRM celebrated its 22nd anniversary by re-endowing the **Leesfield/ATLA** Scholarship for an additional five years. The scholarship was created by partner **Ira Leesfield** to provide assistance to law students who have an interest in representing injured consumers. "I am thrilled to see the scholarship so successful," said Leesfield, who is the senior member from Florida on ATLA's Board of Governors. "It is a wonderful thing to see law students who really want to help victims."

Visit Our New Website

LLRM's new web site is located at **www.LLRM.com** and is loaded with information about the firm, cases, legal victories, and copies of past Petitions and articles written by the firm's attorneys.



Helpful Websites On Electrical Safety

Residential Electrical Safety Checklist: www.energyright.com/mseb/safety.htm

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE): www.ieee.org

National Electric Code Internet Connection: www.mikeholt.com

Electric Safety Menu: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/boyce_smith/safelink.htm

Child's Guide to Electric Safety: www.ladwp.com/resserv/safety/childsafes.htm

Kidsafe-Electrocution: www.greenweb.com.au/kidsafe/html/electrocution.html

Underwriters Laboratory: www.ul.com

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