

Petition

Via Fax

From the Florida offices of **Leesfield Leighton Rubio Mahfood** Trial Lawyers

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Putting Cases on the Fast Track

A family who has suffered a catastrophe wants to know "how long will the process take?" It is one of the most difficult questions to answer in the initial client interview. There is a client misconception that litigation must take 3-5 years to complete. Although that certainly would be the exception, it is possible when there are dilatory tactics on behalf of the defendants as well as appeals. It is also important to point out that a major and complicated case can be resolved in the time frame of 8 to 18 months.

Each case stands on its own, but here are some results achieved in a short time frame by **Leesfield, Leighton, Rubio & Mahfood:**

Motorcyclist recovers \$3.25 million 11 months from collision

Our client, John Scolaro, sustained head trauma when struck by defendant's vehicle. Extensive discovery taken in Miami, Florida, Lee County, Florida, Essex County, New Jersey, and Rockland County, New York did not slow this case down. Eleven months from date of accident to date of mediation resulted in \$3.25 million.



\$1.35 million to family of New York tourist in less than 6 months

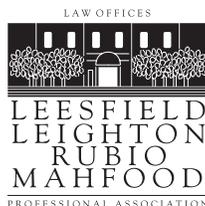
A New York tourist, E.C., was driving a rental car in Palm Beach county when his vehicle was struck from behind in the rain. The retired 68 year-old former banker was killed. There was a \$1,350,000 settlement for this family in less than six months from the date of the crash.

Malpractice death case over in 13 months for \$700,000

Our client, Jule Nutig, was a 54 year-old obese woman with a history of medical problems. During gastric bypass surgery bleeding developed in an artery and she bled to death. She was survived by her husband and a 22 year-old son. The matter was settled within thirteen months from our client's death for \$700,000.

Florence Griffith Joyner "Flo Jo" Scholarship Established

The **Leesfield Family Trust** and **Leesfield, Leighton, Rubio & Mahfood, P.A.** have established the *Florence Griffith Joyner "Flo Jo" Scholarship* recognizing outstanding women student/athletes in Miami-Dade County high schools. Flo Jo and LLRM partner **Ira Leesfield** were appointed by President Clinton to serve on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports in 1993. Ms. Joyner was the 1984 three-time Olympic gold medalist. "Her untimely death, at the age of 38, was a loss to all Americans," noted partner **John Leighton**.



Key West moped crash brings \$500,000 award in 7 months

Our client, 30-year old Mark Clemente, recovered \$500,000 in settlement within seven months of a serious accident while operating his moped. Defendant failed to yield right-of-way at a traffic signal. Mr. Clemente sustained serious burns to his legs.



\$1.2 million in 6 months following motorcycle crash

Gary Manning was driving his motorcycle in Fort Lauderdale minding his own business. A

tourist in a rental car unfamiliar with the area made an illegal u-turn right into the path of Gary, throwing him from the motorcycle. Gary suffered a serious fracture to his leg, requiring several surgeries. Six months later a settlement for \$1,200,000 now protects Gary's future.



\$2,575,000 medical malpractice payment within 8 months for the family of a 61 year-old deceased

After successful disk surgery, plaintiff went to a room on a medical floor, where she was on a morphine drip for pain. After complaining of continued

pain, patient was given Demerol. The combination of the Demerol and morphine resulted in respiratory arrest and myocardial infarction. The plaintiff, 61, sustained catastrophic brain damage as a result of anoxia, leaving her in a comatose state. The case was settled in less than eight months.



Auto wrongful death results in \$1 million outcome in 6 months

\$1,000,000 recovery within six months from the date of accident for the family of Angela Rodriguez, 56 years-old, who was killed when defendant truck ran a red light striking her car. Mrs. Rodriguez

had recently arrived from Cuba and was returning home from a job interview. A wrongful death action was brought on behalf of her four adult children.

Federal Court Trial: Assault at mall, \$420,000 by jury within 11 months

Louise Hubbard was attacked in the parking lot of the Cutler Ridge Mall on the way to her car. She sustained an injury to a knee that had already been operated on, requiring two additional arthroscopic surgeries. \$420,000 verdict from a federal court jury within eleven months—an amazingly short time to litigate a case in federal court.

Tips For Moving Your Cases:



- When representing minors, have the guardian ad litem appointed early in the case.
- Complete thorough and aggressive investigation prior to filing suit.
- Be sure to select the venue that will most quickly address your client's needs.
- Begin working on damages early in the case—rather than waiting towards the end.
- Obtain a mediation date as you would a trial date.
- Establish a discovery schedule early on with opposing counsel.
- Have your trial exhibits ready at mediation.
- Immediately notice case for trial when at issue and obtain a mediation date.
- Retain expert witnesses early—before filing suit—and retain only the top specialist in their field.



Key West Happenings

Leesfield, Leighton, Rubio & Mahfood

hosted a "Learning Luncheon" in Key West where partner **Maria Rubio** spoke on the *Top Ten Tort Decisions of 1998*. The luncheon at Mango's Restaurant was attended by attorneys from Key West and throughout the Florida Keys. CLE credit has been applied for. The next luncheon will be hosted this Spring where the topic will be "*Winning Trial Techniques*." For details and reservations, please call **1-800-836-6400**.