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**SEPTEMBER 2010 TRIAL DATE SET AS CLASS ACTION MOVES FORWARD
AGAINST DEVELOPER AND SUPPLIER OF DEFECTIVE CHINESE DRYWALL**

Manufacturer's German parent served for first time in separate federal suit

MIAMI – June 25, 2009 – A Miami-Dade circuit judge has set a Chinese drywall class-action case for trial in September 2010, in what is believed to be the first such order in the country.

Judge Gill S. Freeman has also set a Sept. 14, 2009, hearing on the plaintiffs' motion to certify a class action of all homeowners whose houses were constructed by South Kendall Construction Corporation and which have Chinese drywall.

In a separate, federal class-action suit, [The Knauf Group](#), German-based parent of the manufacturer [Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin Co. Ltd.](#), has been served and will be added as a defendant. Federal class-action suits were combined in New Orleans. The parent has not yet been served in previous federal suits.

The state and federal lawsuits, brought by the law firms of [Higer Lichter & Givner](#), [The Blumstein Law Firm](#) and [Podhurst Orseck](#), allege that the defective drywall emits toxins, including carbon disulfide, carbonyl sulfide and hydrogen sulfide.

Drywall manufactured in China was used in as many as 60,000 homes in Florida and as many as 100,000 in the United States during the building boom between 2004 and 2007. The lawsuit claims toxic chemicals that emanate from the drywall have damaged houses, fixtures and personal property, rendering the homes unsafe and uninhabitable. In addition to receiving relief for the damages to their property, members of the federal class action are seeking medical monitoring for the adverse effects of prolonged exposure to the toxic chemicals.

“These toxins pose serious health threats, including headaches, respiratory ailments and other health problems. They also corrode various metals within the structure of the homes and disrupt with the operation of electronic equipment,” said attorney Mark Blumstein. “People buy homes for shelter and protection; not homes that make them sick.”

The federal case was filed in late March by the three law firms on behalf of Janet Morris-Chin and Dajan Green against the foreign manufacturer of defective Chinese drywall, Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin Co. Ltd., and the foreign company that distributed it in the United States, Rothchilt International, Ltd.

The state case was filed in February on behalf of Jason and Melissa Harrell and other homeowners who purchased defective homes. As in the federal case, the Harrells allege that drywall installed in their new home, and those of their neighbors, emits destructive and harmful toxins and renders the homes unsafe and uninhabitable. The defective drywall was installed in the Harrell's home by the builder, South Kendall Construction Corp., and supplied by Banner Supply Company.

It is believed that the manufacturer of the drywall exported approximately 550 million pounds of Chinese-made drywall into the United States, which is enough to build up to 100,000 average-size single-family homes. "There are many others experiencing the same problems as the Harrells," said attorney David Lichter. "Unfortunately, sometimes the only way to get companies to do the right thing is to sue them. The Harrells want a safe house, not a sick house."

A special phone line has been set up for those seeking information on the issue: 305-356-7549. A special web site is at www.chinesedrywallsuits.com.

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The Blumstein Law Firm provides its clients legal solutions through representation and practice areas including complex commercial litigation, contract disputes, real estate, PMPA, admiralty and business torts. Mark Blumstein founded the firm in 2008. Mr. Blumstein is a Navy Judge Advocate General, former elected official with the Town of Surfside, Florida and legal counsel for several national and international corporations. For more information please visit www.blumsteinlaw.com.

Podhurst Orseck concentrates exclusively in trial and appellate litigation. The firm's general tort practice places a major emphasis on aviation, automobile, products liability and medical malpractice litigation. In addition, the firm has a substantial practice in commercial, matrimonial and criminal litigation, as well as complex commercial tort litigation. Attorneys serve clients and corporations throughout the United States, and in many foreign countries. You can learn more about Podhurst Orseck by visiting the firm's website at www.podhurst.com.