



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Barbara Buzzell
The Buzzell Company
214/219-9191- office
bb@buzzellco.com

FAMILIES OF TWO VICTIMS OF ARKANSAS SCAFFOLDING COLLAPSE FILE SUIT

Preliminary Findings of Plaintiffs' Investigation into Cause of Collapse Released

Families File Wrongful Death Claims Against Contractor, Foreman and Scaffolding Manufacturer

DALLAS, Texas (April 21, 2008)—Miller Curtis & Weisbrod, a Texas-based law firm that specializes in catastrophic injury litigation and medical malpractice, today in Texas State Court in Dallas County filed a wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of the families of two victims of a fatal construction accident in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The accident which resulted in the death of three individuals occurred on April 2, 2008 below the I-430 bridge in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The families are suing Oscar Renda Contracting, Inc., a Texas Corporation, Charles J. Jackson and SAC Manufacturing, Inc., a Texas Corporation.

The plaintiffs include:

- The family of Juan Manuel Flores: Ana Lilia Flores, individually and as wrongful death beneficiary of Juan Manuel Flores and as next of friend for Emmline Ayde Flores and Manuel Flores, Jr., minor children, and Juana Silva Flores and Elias Flores;

-more-

Families of Two Victims of Arkansas Scaffolding...

Page Two

- The family of Juan Manuel Gonzalez a/k/a Eleazer Lopez (hereinafter Juan Manuel Gonzalez): Miriam Lozano Gonzalez individually and as wrongful death beneficiary of Juan Manuel Gonzalez and as next of friend for Danna Paola Gonzalez and Juan Pablo Gonzalez, minor children and Guadalupe Gonzalez and Antonio Gonzalez.

Juan Manuel Flores and Juan Manuel Gonzalez were two of three construction workers, employed by Oscar Renda Contracting, Inc., installing water pipe below the I-430 bridge when the scaffold platform they were standing on plunged into the river below. Their construction team was supervised by Charles J. Jackson, a resident of Dallas County, who was not on the platform when it collapsed.

Upon removal of the scaffold platform, the body of the third construction worker was found to be entangled in the platform. The bodies of Flores and Gonzalez have not been recovered and they are presumed dead.

“The fact that these three men were allowed to work on this scaffold platform which both Oscar Renda Contracting and supervisor Charles Jackson knew was potentially hazardous is a blatant disregard for safety,” said Clay Miller, managing partner, Miller Curtis & Weisbrod and co-counsel. “There was no posted load capacity limit which contributed to the collapse and ultimately the needless deaths of Mr. Flores and Mr. Gonzalez.”

“Not only did the contractor not follow proper safety procedures to protect their employees, but the manufacturer of the scaffold platform, SAC Manufacturing, was negligent in designing and maintaining a stable structure,” said Domingo Garcia, Law Office of Domingo Garcia, PC, General Counsel of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) and co-counsel. “If proper industry and federal guidelines had been followed, it is likely this accident could have been prevented.”

The lawsuit charges Oscar Renda Contracting, Inc. and Charles J. Jackson with gross negligence through sixteen claims detailed in the filed petition (see page 4-5 of the petition). These claims highlight the lack of pre-job hazard analysis, a knowledge of the presence of dangerous working conditions and lack of response to signs the scaffolding system was unstable, amongst other claims, resulting in the failure of the scaffolding system and ultimately the deaths of Flores and Gonzalez.

Families of Two Victims of Arkansas Scaffolding...

Page Three

The lawsuit charges SAC Manufacturing with failing to exercise reasonable care of a reasonable and prudent person under the same or similar circumstances through seven claims detailed in the filed petition (see pages 6-7 of the petition) including, but not limited to design failure, failure to provide appropriate repairs and failure to follow industry and federal guidelines in regards to several facets of the scaffolding system.

The suit asks for an unspecified amount of actual and punitive or exemplary damages plus necessary medical, funeral and burial expenses incurred by the families of Juan Manuel Flores and Juan Manuel Gonzalez.

#

Available to the media:

- *A copy of the file-stamped petition*
- *Images of scaffolding in question*
- *Clay Miller, managing partner, Miller Curtis & Weisbrod, co-counsel*
- *Domingo Garcia, Law Office of Domingo Garcia, PC and General Counsel of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens), co-counsel*
- *Ana Lilia Flores, wife of Juan Manuel Flores; Juan Esquivel Gonzalez, brother of Juan Manuel Gonzalez*