

**CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST SOUTH FLORIDA DEVELOPER
AND SUPPLIER OF DEFECTIVE “CHINESE” DRYWALL**

Lawsuit Alleges that Drywall Emits Toxins Harmful to Humans and Property

Miami, Florida, February 5, 2009 – Jason Harrell and Melissa Harrell filed a class action lawsuit in Miami-Dade County Circuit Court on behalf of themselves and other homeowners who purchased defective homes. 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. Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin Co. Ltd., a Chinese company, manufactured the defective drywall installed by the builder, South Kendall Construction Corp., in the Harrell’s home.

In January 2008, Jason and Melissa Harrell purchased their newly constructed home in Palm Isle Estates, a single family home community in Homestead, FL. Shortly after moving in, the Harrells noticed foul odors in the home, their children began experiencing significant respiratory problems and Jason began suffering headaches. The Harrells also experienced problems with their air conditioning system, appliances, internal wiring and other electrical systems rendering them, in some cases, inoperable. Black soot appeared on the copper wiring in the home and in other places.

The Harrells repeatedly asked their builder to fix the problems, but it failed to correct them. The Harrells are now looking for a new place to live. With no resolution in sight, the Harrells turned to legal counsel. “The Harrell’s thought they were buying their dream home,” said Joseph Givner, attorney for the Harrells. “Instead, they stepped into a nightmare.” Several of the approximate 100 homeowners in the Palm Isles Estates have already relocated for similar reasons.

The lawsuit, brought by the law firms of Higer Lichter & Givner and The Blumstein Law Firm, alleges that the defective drywall emits toxins, including carbon disulfide, carbonyl sulfide and hydrogen sulfide. “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 Mark Blumstein. “People buy homes for shelter and protection; not homes that make them sick.”

According to the lawsuit, South Kendall Construction Corp. purchased this defective Chinese drywall from suppliers including Banner, a Miami-based company who supplied the drywall for the construction of the homes. They in turn, purchased the drywall from Rothchilt, a Chinese importer and distributor of the defective drywall. In approximately the span of one year, it is believed that Knauf imported approximately 67.3 million pounds of its Chinese-made drywall into the United States, which is enough to build up to 7,500 average-size single-family homes. “There are many others experiencing the same problems as the Harrells,” said 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.

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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. The firm was founded in 2008 by Mark Blumstein. 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.