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LEGAL TEAMS WIN 2009 TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS
Attorneys in Rocky Flats, Pan Am 103 Litigation Take Public Justice Foundation Honors

Two legal teams that each prevailed in long and hard-fought cases against formidable corporate and government defendants were named co-winners of the Public Justice Foundation's 2009 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award at ceremonies in San Francisco on Tuesday night.

Ten attorneys from Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Denver were cited for their work in *Cook v. Rockwell International Corp.*, in which they held the operators of Colorado's Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant accountable for persistent radioactive contamination from the facility.

They shared honors with a team of five New York lawyers who recovered substantial damages for the families of the victims in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 passengers and crew aboard the plane and 11 people on the ground were killed

The award went to **Merrill G. Davidoff, Peter Nordberg, David F. Sorensen, Ellen Noteware and Jenna MacNaughton Wong of Berger & Montague, P.C.** in Philadelphia; **Louise Roselle and Jean Geoppinger** of Waite, Schneider, Bayless & Chesley Co., LPA in Cincinnati; and **Gary Blum, Steve Kelly and Bruce DeBoskey** of Silver & DeBoskey, P.C. in Denver for the *Cook* case; and **James P. Kreindler and Steven R. Pounian** of Kreindler & Kreindler LLP; **Michel "Mitch" F. Baumeister** of Baumeister & Samuels; and **Frank H. Granito Jr. and Frank Granito III** of Speiser Krause Nolan & Granito for *Lockerbie, Scotland – Pan Am 103 Litigation*.

The winners were chosen from a field of 20 nominated cases, five of which were chosen as finalists. The finalists were feted at the Public Justice Foundation's Annual Gala and Awards Dinner, where the winners were named.

In the *Cook* case, 13,000 property owners near Rocky Flats outside Denver were awarded \$926 million in compensatory damages, punitive damages, and prejudgment interest for the diminution of their property values as the result of radioactive contamination from the plant. The jury verdict against Dow Chemical Co., and Rockwell International was the first to impose punitive damages on a U.S. Department of Energy nuclear weapons contractor.

The attorneys in the Pan Am 103 case recovered more than \$500 million from the airline's insurers and \$2.7 billion from the Libyan government for the victims' families. The litigation marked the first and only time that a nation designated as a "state sponsor of terrorism" admitted its role in a terrorist attack and paid compensation to the victims' families.

The Public Justice Foundation bestows the award on lawyers who won or settled socially significant cases in the last year.

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Public Justice is America's public interest law firm, supported by – and calling on -- a nationwide network of more than 3,000 of the nation's top lawyers to pursue precedent-setting and socially significant litigation. It has a wide-ranging litigation docket in the areas of consumer rights, worker safety, civil rights and liberties, toxic torts, environmental protection, and access to the courts. Public Justice is the principal project of the Public Justice Foundation, a not-for-profit membership organization headquartered in Washington, DC, with a West Coast office in Oakland, California. The Public Justice web site address is www.publicjustice.net.