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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIVE 2009 TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS TO BE HONORED FOR EXCEPTIONAL, SOCIALLY SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC INTEREST CASES

Lawyers from five legal teams that won or settled exceptional, socially significant cases over the past year have been named finalists for the 2009 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award.

The finalist teams were chosen from a field of 19 nominated cases involving extraordinary verdicts, judgments or settlements for plaintiffs in an array of litigation, from consumers' rights and environmental protection to civil rights and liberties.

Listed alphabetically by the lead counsel's last name, the finalists are:

- Reed Colfax, John Relman and Jennifer Klar of Relman & Dane, PLLC, in Washington, D.C., Kerstin Sjoberg-Witt, then of Jones Day in Columbus; Rachel K. Robinson of Equal Justice Foundation in Columbus and Stefan Schmidt of the Ohio Attorney General's Office for *Kennedy v. City of Zanesville*, bringing an end to continuing civil rights violations against a predominantly African American community in Ohio that sought, yet was denied, clean, safe water for decades.
- 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 *Cook v. Rockwell International Corp.*, holding the operators of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant accountable for persistent radioactive contamination from the Denver-area facility.
- Portland, Ore., attorneys William A. Gaylord of Gaylord Eyerman Bradley, P.C.; Ray Thomas and James S. Coon of Swanson Thomas & Coon; and Charles S. Tauman of Charles S. Tauman, P.C.; national consultants Richard Daynard of the Tobacco Litigation Project at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, and Cliff Douglas of the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor; and three appellate lawyers: Robert S. Peck of the Center for Constitutional Litigation in Washington, D.C., and Portland attorneys Maureen Leonard and Kathryn Clarke for *Williams v. Philip Morris*, successfully holding cigarette manufacturer Philip Morris accountable for the lung cancer death of one of its long-time customers.

- New York attorneys 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*, recovering substantial damages for the families of the Pan Am 103 bombing victims from not only the airline’s insurers but also from the Libyan government.
- Scott Summy of Baron & Budd, P.C. in Dallas and Rob Gordon of Weitz & Luxenberg, P.C. in New York; and co-counsel Celeste Evangelisti and Carla Burke of Baron & Budd; and Robin Greenwald and Perry Weitz of Weitz & Luxenberg for *In re Metyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) Products Liability Litigation MDL 1358*, getting big oil companies to clean up the water wells contaminated by a dangerous chemical from their refineries and compensating the victims.

The finalists will be feted at the Public Justice Foundation’s Annual Gala and Awards Dinner on July 28 in San Francisco. The winner will be announced at that event.

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