

July 10, 2009

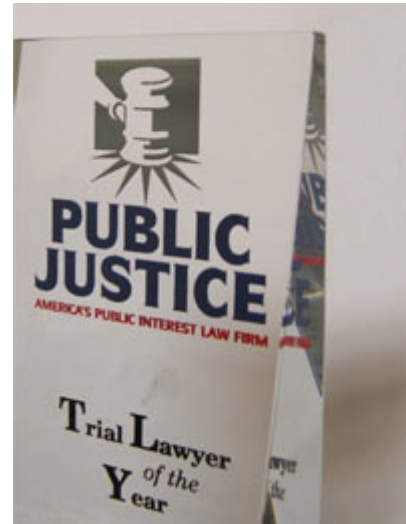
**The Public Justice Foundation has named the attorneys who worked on five outstanding cases as finalists for its 2009 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award.** The nationally-prestigious award is bestowed annually on the trial lawyer or legal team who made the greatest contribution to the public interest by trying or settling a precedent-setting case. **The finalists will be honored, and the winner will be announced on Tuesday, July 28, at the Public Justice Foundation's Annual Gala and Awards Dinner in San Francisco.**

"The variety of cases and the scope of settlements and verdicts prove, once again, that trial lawyers are vital to the protection of citizen rights and in securing justice for the poor, the wronged and the powerless," said Public Justice Foundation President Gerson Smoger.

The finalists -- 36 lawyers among the five cases -- were nominated for their committed work in cases addressing a broad range of social issues, including civil rights, environmental protection, and holding cigarette manufacturers accountable. To read detailed summaries of each case on the Public Justice website [click here](#).

**Here are this year's finalists, listed alphabetically according to the lead counsel's last name:**

- 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 DeBosky of Silver & DeBoskey, P.C. in Denver for *Cook w. 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.

Join us in honoring these excellent attorneys for their exceptional and dedicated work. We invite you to join us on July 28th as we celebrate their victories and announce the winner of this year's award. For tickets and sponsorships, please [click here](#) or contact Sue Gombert, CMP, our Events Manager, at (202) 797-8600, Ext. 235 or by email at [sgombert@publicjustice.net](mailto:sgombert@publicjustice.net).

Arthur Bryant  
Executive Director  
Public Justice  
& the Public Justice Foundation

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