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## Contract Worker Files Benzene Complaint in Federal Court

NEW ORLEANS -- A new benzene complaint has been filed in Louisiana federal court, contending that a contract worker was regularly exposed to a variety of chemicals while working intermittently at a Dow Chemical facility for more than 30 years. *Ventress, et al. v. Radiator Specialty Co., et al.*, No. 11-01419 (E.D. La.).

The complaint was filed June 16 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and names Radiator Specialty Co. and the Dow Chemical Co. as defendants.

Filed by Ernest Ventress Jr. and Betty Ventress, the lawsuit says that Ernest Ventress' work as a contract laborer for National Maintenance and Turner Industries led him to perform contract and pipefitting work at a Dow Chemical Co. facility. While working at the facility, Ventress worked in the chlorine plant, where he was allegedly exposed to benzene, gasoline, propylene and butadiene on a regular basis. The plaintiffs also contend that Ventress worked with Radiator Specialty's Liquid Wrench for nearly 10 years.

As a result of this exposure, Ventress says he developed multiple myeloma.

"He did not learn that benzene exposure could cause Multiple Myeloma until he was informed by his diagnosing physician in July of 2010," the complaint says. "No one from Dow Chemical or any of its supervisors warned him that exposure to benzene could cause cancer."

The plaintiffs further argue that benzene has been proven to cause Ventress' injuries as early as 1948.

"The development of Multiple Myeloma as a result of chronic benzene exposure has been well documented, and death resulting from Multiple Myeloma has been associated with benzene exposure," the complaint says.

The plaintiffs assert causes of action for negligence, strict products liability, failure to warn, and intentional tort.

Counsel for the plaintiffs are L. Eric Williams of the Williams Law Office in Metairie, La.; and Richard J. Fernandez and Amber E. Cisney of Richard J. Fernandez LLC in Metairie, La.

Document is Available Call (800) 496-4319 or Search [www.harrismartin.com](http://www.harrismartin.com) Complaint Ref# BEN-1106-05

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