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## New Benzene Lawsuit Involves Alleged Refinery, Gas Station and Household Exposures

NEW ORLEANS -- A new benzene complaint has been filed in Louisiana federal court, in which the plaintiffs contend that combined exposures to benzene at a refinery, at a gas station and at home led to the development of chronic lymphocytic leukemia. *Boutain, et al., v. Radiator Specialty Co., et al.*, No. 11-01907 (E.D. La.).

The complaint was filed by Hollis and Edna Faye Boutain on Aug. 9 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

The plaintiffs contend that Hollis' work at Alliance Refinery for Gulf Oil Corp. in the 1970s exposed him to a number of toxic chemicals, including benzene, naphtha, xylene and toluene.

"As part of his job duties he regularly sampled and tested products, did 'turnarounds' and went inside vessels with Benzene, Toluene and Xylene (BTX) and Naphtha," the complaint says. "'Turn Around' is the process of getting a unit repaired and ready for an extended process run, it involved drawing off all hydro-carbon liquid from the unit, steaming the unit, ventilating the unit to the atmosphere, and repairs to the unit."

Boutain also was allegedly exposed to benzene while completing home maintenance work, the lawsuit asserts. From 1970 to 1978, Boutain allegedly used the benzene-containing product Liquid Wrench to "free up seized nuts and bolts and [to perform] other minor maintenance work."

Finally, Boutain says that while pumping gasoline for two years in the 1960s, he was also exposed to benzene.

As a result of these combined exposures, the plaintiffs contend that Hollis Boutain developed chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

"The defendants knew or should have known about the causal relationship between benzene and cancer-related illnesses," the Boutains contend. "The defendants failed to warn Mr. Boutain and other similarly situated workers about the health hazards associated with benzene."

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

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