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## Former Millwright Says Multiple Myeloma Caused by Benzene Exposure

NEW ORLEANS -- A new benzene lawsuit has been filed in Louisiana federal court, alleging that chronic benzene poisoning occurred from repeated exposure to "relatively low concentrations of benzene vapors." Goodwin, et al. v. Texaco Inc., et al., No. 11-2697 (E.D. La.).

In the complaint, filed Oct. 27 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the plaintiffs contend that not only was the supplier of the benzene in a position to warn users of the product's dangers, but a former employer was as well.

Danny and Mabelle Goodwin, and their adult children, Ian and Haiden Goodwin, brought the lawsuit. According to the lawsuit, Danny Goodwin's work at Ormet Corp. in Louisiana as a millwright required him to make aluminum and alumina. During this process, Goodwin broke down pumps and cleaned a vat filled with benzene for three years in the 1970s.

"As a result of his exposure to benzene, Mr. Goodwin suffered damage to his bone marrow and blood forming organs, resulting in Multiple Myeloma," the lawsuit says.

The Goodwins name Texaco Inc., a supplier of benzene, grease and oils to Goodwin's employer, and Employers Insurance Company of Wausau and ABC Insurance Company, both insurers of Ormet Corp.

"The negligence and misrepresentations of Texaco Inc. and Ormet Executive Officers, resulted in Mr. Goodwin's exposure to high levels of benzene," the plaintiffs claim. "Through industry and medical studies unknown to plaintiffs, the Defendant knew or should have known of the health hazards inherent in the products it manufactured, distributed, sold, supplied, owned, transported or used. The actions or inactions of the Defendant constitutes gross negligence and demonstrate a reckless disregard for the rights and safety of others. Furthermore, the Defendant committed numerous tortious acts that include, without limitation, negligently misrepresenting, concealing, suppressing, omitting material information about the health effects of benzene and failing to inform users of precautionary measures to be used when handling or near benzene...."

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.

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