

Harke & Clasby LLP

Largest Per Consumer Anti-Trust Class Action Settlement Received in U.S. History Regarding Carbon Black

MIAMI – On October 26, 2009, Miami-Dade County Circuit Judge Maxine Cohen Lando approved the largest per consumer Carbon Black state court anti-trust class action settlement in the country. The settlement agreement provides the defendants will collectively pay \$825,500.00 to resolve all claims brought by the class.

Plaintiff's counsel Lance Harke and Howard Bushman of Harke & Clasby LLP (www.harkeclasby.com) filed this action in November 2003, alleging that the major manufacturers of Carbon Black, a component in tires and other rubber products, engaged in a conspiracy to unreasonably restrain trade and commerce of the chemical within Florida.

“We’re very pleased with the Court’s approval of the settlement, and believe that these much-needed funds will benefit Florida consumers and the charities that service them in these trying times,” said attorney Lance Harke.

The settlement provides for a cy pres fund of \$825,500.00 to be distributed to Court-approved charities throughout the State of Florida. The approved charities include 32 separate “Meals on Wheels” programs servicing all elements of the Florida population and eight different Florida Legal Services Organizations, including the Legal Services of Greater Miami. These charitable organizations collectively will receive hundreds of thousands of dollars as a result of this settlement.

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Miami-based Harke & Clasby LLP was established by founding partner and trial lawyer, Lance Harke in 2000. The firm represents clients throughout the state of Florida and in courts across the country in a wide range of commercial law matters related to commercial litigation, business torts, consumer class actions, securities class actions, product liability, insurance litigation, general civil litigation, general commercial litigation, civil appeals, prescription drug issues, employment matters, bad faith issues, professional malpractice, medical malpractice, and appellate practice.

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