

## PODHURST ORSECK'S STEVEN C. MARKS REPRESENTING THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VICTIMS FROM AIRES AIRLINES FLIGHT 8250 COLOMBIA CRASH

Podhurst Orseck represents 38 passengers of AIRES Airline Flight 8250, including all five Americans.

**MIAMI – September 27, 2010** – Podhurst Orseck, P.A. now represents 38 passengers of AIRES Airlines Flight 8250 who were seriously injured when the plane crashed on the Colombian island of San Andrés, resulting in two fatalities and numerous serious injuries on August 16, 2010. Podhurst Orseck partner, Steven C. Marks, stated the suits may be filed shortly, especially for the five American passengers unless the insurers unequivocally commit to the payment of necessary medical treatment in the U.S.

"I am also very concerned about the quality of care for many of our other clients still being treated in Colombia," said Marks, lead attorney for the victims. "I am sure everyone wants these victims to have the best medical result possible, so hopefully the insurers will authorize treatment at U.S. medical facilities for those passengers with more serious injuries. Jurisdiction exists for all of these passengers as Aires operates out of Fort Lauderdale and maintains an office in Coral Gables."

The AIRES-operated Boeing 737-73V was en-route from the Colombian capital of Bogota when it crashed while attempting to land in bad weather at San Andres Island's Gustavo Rojas Pinilla Airport. The aircraft hit the ground short of the runway, breaking into three pieces on impact.

The plane was carrying 131 people (121 adult passengers, four minors, and six crew members) at the time of the crash. There was initially one fatality reported at the time of the incident: Amar Fernandez de Barreto, 68, who died in route to the hospital. In total, 119 people were taken to area hospitals, with five people in critical condition, including a young girl who suffered severe head and face trauma, which put her into a coma. She died in the hospital the week after the crash. Relatives believe that her death was related to the poor medical care she received.

Internationally recognized for his aviation litigation practice, Marks has represented victims in countless significant major commercial airline crashes. Acting as co-lead counsel in the 1997 Silk Air Boeing 737 crash between Jakarta and Singapore, he successfully obtained one of the largest verdicts in a mass disaster aviation case. He has also acted as lead liaison counsel for the state court and federal multi-district litigation plaintiff's steering committees in connection with the ValuJet Flight 592 crash in Miami-Dade County in 1996. He has also represented victims in most of the aviation disasters which have occurred over the last 20 years. Marks recently secured a historic \$14 million judgment in Spain in connection with the midair collision between Bashkirian Airlines Flight 2937 and DHL Flight 611. Currently, he represents more than 40 victims killed aboard Air

France Flight 447 and serves as court appointed lead counsel for all lawsuits filed in the American Airlines Flight 331 Jamaica crash.

## About Podhurst Orseck, P.A.

Miami-based Podhurst Orseck, P.A., established over four decades ago, is a boutique trial and appellate firm focusing its practice on tort litigation matters including aviation, products liability, serious personal injury, and wrongful death claims, as well as complex commercial litigation and white collar defense. Additionally, the firm has a strong appellate practice, handling appeals for its own attorneys and attorneys throughout the nation, in various state and federal appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court. The firm has consistently received an AV-Rating from Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, the highest possible rating, based on legal ability and general ethical standards. For more information, please visit www.podhurst.com.