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PODHURST ORSECK FILES NINETEEN LAWSUITS ON BEHALF OF FAMILY MEMBERS WHO LOST LOVED ONES IN BRAZIL'S MOST DEADLY AIRLINE CRASH

MIAMI — April 2, 2007— Podhurst Orseck, P.A. attorneys Steven C. Marks and Ricardo M. Martinez-Cid, among the nation's leading aviation trial attorneys, have filed 19 lawsuits on behalf of some of the 154 passengers who were killed in a mid air collision over the Amazon Rainforest.

The victims were traveling on Gol Transportes Aeros Flight #1907 when it collided with an Embraer Legacy 600 business jet on September 29, 2006. Marks and Martinez-Cid filed these lawsuits in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida to seek millions of dollars worth of damages from those responsible.

Investigators said the Legacy was on its maiden voyage heading to the United States from the southern city of São José dos Campos when the accident occurred at 37,000 feet, an altitude usually reserved for flights headed in the opposite direction. "Like most commercial aviation disasters, it was not one, but a series of mistakes that led to this tragedy," said Marks.

These lawsuits, which name both the Legacy's owner, ExcelAire, and its two pilots Joseph Lepore and Jan Paladino of New York, specifically cite failing to maintain proper altitude and proper communication with Brazilian traffic controllers as two of the causes for this deadly incident.

"ExcelAire's pilots flew at an improper altitude directly in contravention of their filed flight plan and international safety regulations," said Marks. "In addition, the pilots also failed to properly operate the Legacy's transponder which could have helped avoid this crash in the first place," Marks said.

ExcelAire is named as a defendant in the suits because it owns the aircraft and is legally liable for the negligence of its operation, said Martinez-Cid. The lawsuits also name Morristown, N.J.-based Honeywell International Inc. (NYSE: HON) for its defective transponder and the Legacy's manufacturer, Embraer, whose U.S. office is based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for including it in the aircraft.

The Complaints name Coral Gables, Fl.-based Amazon Technologies Company, Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT), Raytheon, and for their design and implementation of the air traffic control system known as the System for the Vigilance of the Amazon, or SIVAM. Martinez-Cid explained that "the SIVAM was defective and left vast stretches of the Amazon, including where this accident occurred, without adequate radar and communication services. This accident might have been avoided if air traffic controllers had not lost communication with the pilots." The suits seek personal injury damages for the crash victims and survivors, as well as economic reparations for those who perished.

Internationally recognized for his aviation litigation practice, Marks has represented victims in countless significant major commercial airline crashes, including, but not limited to, acting as co-lead trial counsel for the California State Court plaintiffs after a Silk Air crash between Jakarta and Singapore in 1997 (successfully obtaining one of the most significant and largest verdicts in a mass disaster aviation case) and acting as lead liaison counsel for the state court and federal multi-district litigation plaintiffs' steering committees over the ValuJet Flight 592 crash in Miami-Dade County in 1996.

Marks and Martinez-Cid have extensive experience handling Brazilian aviation matters. They have represented numerous Brazilian victims of both airplane and helicopter disasters. They focus their practice on personal injury and wrongful death litigation, product liability, commercial litigation, class actions, medical malpractice, premise liability, and admiralty. Martinez-Cid is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish

Based in Miami, Podhurst Orseck, P.A. concentrates exclusively in trial and appellate litigation. The firm's general tort practice places a major emphasis on aviation, automobile, products liability and medical malpractice litigation. In addition, the firm has a substantial practice in commercial, matrimonial and criminal litigation, as well as complex commercial tort litigation. Attorneys serve clients and corporations throughout the United States, and in many foreign countries. You can learn more about Podhurst Orseck by visiting the firm's website at www.podhurst.com.

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