

# PodhurstOrseck

TRIAL & APPELLATE LAWYERS

## **PODHURST ORSECK'S STEVEN C. MARKS APPOINTED LEAD COUNSEL FOR ALL LAWSUITS FILED IN AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 331 JAMAICA CRASH**

*Newly formed Plaintiffs' Steering Committee currently representing more than 20 passengers of AA Flight 331; trial date extended for eligible passengers to join case*

**MIAMI – October 1, 2010** – A United States District Court judge for the Southern District of Florida has signed an order appointing Steven C. Marks, partner at the leading trial law firm of Podhurst Orseck, as lead counsel in a lawsuit against American Airlines for all passenger who sustained injuries when AA Flight 331 crashed in Kingston, Jamaica on December 22, 2009. The lawsuit currently names 22 passengers as plaintiffs who were aboard the plane when it overshot its runway and was torn apart, skidding less than 15 feet from the edge of the Caribbean Sea.

The recently signed order also calls for the formation of a Plaintiffs' Steering Committee (PSC). Led by Marks and Co-counsel Ricardo M. Martinez-Cid of Podhurst Orseck, the PSC is responsible for coordinating and conducting all pre-trial and prosecution aspects of the litigation. The trial date has been set for August 2012 so that more eligible passengers may join the case.

At the time of the crash, the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority reported that Flight 331's pilots ignored air traffic control's instructions on how to land in the inclement weather, instead landing the plane into a tailwind that boosted its speed and caused it to overshoot the runway.

Internationally recognized for his aviation litigation practice, Marks has represented victims in countless significant major commercial airline crashes. Acting as co-lead trial 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 plaintiffs' steering committees in connection with the ValuJet Flight 592 crash in Miami-Dade County in 1996. Most recently, Marks 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 30 victims killed aboard Air France Flight 447.

### **About Podhurst Orseck, P.A.**

Miami-based Podhurst Orseck, P.A., established over four decades ago, is a top flight 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](http://www.podhurst.com).

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