

## **\$10 MILLION VERDICT AWARDED IN FATAL AIRCRAFT CRASH**

### **'CSI-Style' Investigation Uncovers Cracks in Engine Cylinder**

MIAMI (Feb. 14,2006) –A Miami circuit court jury has awarded a \$10 million verdict to Valerie Leung, the widow of a pilot killed in a 1999 plane crash in Guyana.

The jury yesterday found that Certified Engines Unlimited, Inc., was negligent in repairing the engine of a Cessna 206 flown by Derek Anthony Leung, according to attorneys Steven C. Marks and Ricardo Martinez-Cid, Podhurst Orseck, who represented the plaintiff in her case.

“Certified Engines Unlimited demonstrated a pattern of suspicious behavior throughout this case, including a claim that important documents had been blown away by a tornado,” said Marks. “In addition, the company owner – who said in a court deposition many years ago that he had no knowledge of the engine – suddenly recalled alleged details of the case in his recent courtroom testimony.”

Leung, 46, was headed to Mahdia in Guyana’s interior with his employee Wazim Sattaur when the plane’s engine began to sputter and run rough. He requested an emergency landing but the engine shut down and both Leung and Sattaur were killed in the crash.

The Cessna’s engine was in “almost new condition” when it was shipped from Guyana to Certified’s facility in Opa-locka for an overhaul, said Martinez-Cid. But when the engine was sent back to Guyana, a number of parts, including the cylinders, had been replaced without a notation in the official engine logbook.

“Our metallurgical experts conducted a painstaking CSI-style examination of the number three engine cylinder that failed in the crash,” said Martinez-Cid. “The pattern of discolorations showed that the cylinder had suffered a crack several years prior to the accident, then was not used until it was installed on

Leung's Cessna. During that flight, the crack in the cylinder began to grow, resulted in the engine failure and crash.”

Circuit Judge Michael Genden presided over the wrongful death case.

Established in 1967, Podhurst Orseck concentrates exclusively in trial and appellate litigation. The firm's general tort practice places a major emphasis upon aviation, automobile, products liability and medical malpractice litigation. The firm's practice serves clients and corporations throughout the United States, and in several foreign countries.