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For more information contact:

Charles Jones

305-372-1234

cjones@wraggcasas.com

**PODHURST ORSECK FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST AIRBUS LEASING AND SIBERIA AIRLINES ON BEHALF OF AIRLINE CRASH VICTIMS**

**NEW YORK — October 26, 2006** — Steven C. Marks, one of the nation's leading aviation litigation attorneys with the Podhurst Orseck law firm, has filed a lawsuit against Airbus Leasing II, Inc., with operations in Virginia, and Siberia Airlines, now doing business as S7 Airlines, on behalf of 159 passengers who were injured or killed on Siberian Airlines Flight 778. These victims were on board the Airbus-310 that veered off the runway at the Irkutsk airport in the Russian Federation on July 9, 2006. Marks filed the suit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and he expects additional plaintiffs to join in the suit.

Airbus Leasing II is affiliated with Airbus, one of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers, and its parent, European Aeronautic Defense and Space Co. (EADS) (EAD.PA).

"It is clear from the results of the crash investigation that this horrible accident could have been prevented," said Marks. "Siberia failed to properly train its pilots and crew on how to handle a plane that had an inoperative thrust reverser. Several safety procedures were not followed, which led to a crash that claimed 129 lives."

The lawsuit claims Siberia failed to operate the aircraft in a safe and competent manner by knowingly departing with an inoperative thrust reverser. "In addition, the flight crew attempted to engage both thrust reversers when they should have known that one of them wasn't working properly," Marks said. "This led to an asymmetrical thrust, causing the aircraft to slide off the runway, crash into structures and burst into flames."

Airbus Leasing is named as a defendant in the suit because it owns the aircraft and is legally liable for the negligence of its operation, said Marks.

The suit seeks personal injury damages for the crash victims and survivors, as well as economic reparations for those who perished.

"The insurers have provided \$300 million in coverage," said Marks. "But in the event jurisdiction stays in the United States, their exposure would be far greater."

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 has extensive experience handling Russian aviation matters. He has represented the Russian Federation for more than 8 years. He also focuses his practice on personal injury and wrongful death litigation, product liability, commercial litigation, class actions, medical malpractice, premise liability, and admiralty.

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](http://www.podhurst.com).

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Wragg & Casas Public Relations, Inc.  
1000 Brickell Avenue, Suite 400  
Miami, Florida 33131  
Ph: 305-372-1234  
Charles Jones  
cjones@wraggcasas.com