

## | DELLECKER | WILSON | KING | McKENNA | RUFFIER | & SOS |

Last Memorial Day weekend, a Central Florida family was enjoying a relaxing evening at home when tragically the fire pot that was burning on their patio table exploded, sending balls of fire into the air. Sadly, two people were badly burned by the gel fuel explosion. One victim, who was burned over 60% of his body, later died at a local burn center. The other victim, his wife, survived but sustained burns over approximately 40% of her body. Through videos posted on the internet warning the public about this dangerous product and numerous letters and phone calls to federal agencies, our firm worked tirelessly with the victim's family to recall gel fuel.

On September 1, 2011 we were triumphant. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a recall of 2 million containers of gel fuel and urged retailers to stop selling the recalled gel fuels and remove existing stock from store shelves. The firm is in the process of trying to help our clients family find some form of justice for themselves and other victims. Our civil justice system, which as been so badly dismantled by big business and politicians over the years, is our only avenue for seeking justice.

As we see all too often in the current era of "deregulation" there were literally no federal or state safeguards in place to require any pre-production testing to make sure the gel was not dangerous. And, after putting an untested and unproven product on the market that has injured many people in the United States, two of the businesses involved in selling the product have declared bankruptcy. Countless victims will be left scarred, personally and financially, without recourse. In the end, taxpayers end up footing the bill when governmental programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Welfare, Food Stamps step in to pay for victims' medical care, housing, shelter and basic living needs.

Our firm is working with other victim's representatives across the country to identify how this dangerous product could make its way into people's homes without being tested and who should be responsible. For the victims of this catastrophe, the civil justice system is their only way to get answers to these questions. Hopefully, we will report further on this case as facts are uncovered.





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