



And The Defense Wins

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DRI members [Lyon H. Garrison](#), [Randall C. Mulcahy](#) and [Scott P. Yount](#) of **Garrison, Yount, Forte & Mulcahy, LLC** in New Orleans teamed with [Andy Weinstock](#) and [Joe Glass](#) of **Duplass, Zwain, Bourgeois, Pfister & Weinstock** in New Orleans to obtain a defense verdict in favor of their client, Recreation by Design, LLC, in the third bellwether trial in the FEMA Formaldehyde Trailer Litigation MDL pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

The plaintiff, Earline Castanel, lived in a FEMA trailer for 17 months following Hurricane Katrina, and claimed exacerbation of chronic rhinosinusitis and a resulting sinus surgery due to exposure to formaldehyde fumes while living in the trailer. Recreation by Design was the manufacturer of the travel trailer, and the plaintiff claimed that the trailer was unreasonably dangerous due to its design and for lack of an adequate warning. The plaintiff was represented by the following firms: Watts Guerra Craft, LLP in San Antonio; Reich & Binstock in Houston; Chris Pinedo Attorney at Law in Corpus Christi; the Law Office of Frank J. D'Amico Jr. of New Orleans; and Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier and Warshauer, LLC of New Orleans.

After deliberating for less than three hours, the nine-member jury unanimously concluded that the Recreation by Design travel trailer was not defective in any respect. This is the third defense victory in the MDL, which consists of more than 10,000 claims against numerous travel trailer manufacturers, several contractors and the United States government, through FEMA.

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