

**PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 3, 2010**

**CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST  
TRANSOCEAN, LTD AND BP AMERICA, ET AL AS A RESULT  
OF DEEPWATER HORIZON EXPLOSION AND OIL SPILL**

A class action lawsuit was filed on Friday, April 30, 2010, in Alabama Federal Court, Southern Division, stemming from the April 20<sup>th</sup> explosion on the offshore drilling vessel, Deepwater Horizon. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of persons owning property within 10 miles of the Gulf of Mexico shore, who will most directly feel the impact of this explosion and resulting oil spill. Attorneys Larry Morris and Clay Hornsby of the Birmingham, Alabama firm Morris, Haynes & Hornsby are representing those affected by these events, including Class Representative George C. Simpson.

On or about April 20, 2010, without warning, an explosion occurred on the vessel Deepwater Horizon, which was located 50 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana, causing its crewmembers to be thrown overboard and killing several crew members aboard the vessel. Oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico from a depth of 5,000 feet.

In recent days, the oil slick has tripled in size, is now estimated to be the size of Puerto Rico and can even be seen from space. Currently, approximately 200,000 gallons of oil are spewing into the Gulf every day and in the event of a total wellhead failure that number could rise to several million gallons per day. News of the oil spill is already causing many people to cancel reservations at rental property within 10 miles of the Gulf of Mexico shore, including cancellations at the rental property owned by George C. Simpson. It is destroying the vacation industry in the areas surrounding the Gulf of Mexico.

The accident was caused by no fault of the residents and landowners of the Gulf and was caused solely by the negligence of Defendants, Transocean and BP America, et al. Since the time of the incident a remotely operated vehicle continues to carry out "multiple attempts" to activate the sub-sea blowout preventer to stop the well from leaking thousands of barrels of crude per day into the Gulf. To date, the "hot stab" to shut off the well by use of the subsea blowout preventer has been unsuccessful.

The Plaintiffs also contend that the Defendants were negligent or wanton in responding to the disaster, particularly with respect to downplaying the nature, size and extent of the leak and failing to employ adequate responders and/or equipment in the field to control the oil slick. As a result of the above described incidents, Mr. Simpson has lost rental revenue due to cancellations from renters of his property within 10 miles of the Gulf of Mexico and he and other rental property owners will continue to lose income because of the oil spill.

These acts of negligence by the Defendants render them liable to Plaintiffs in this lawsuit pursuant to the provisions of general maritime law for negligence. The accident was caused by Defendants' violation of numerous statutes and regulations, including, but not limited to, statutes and regulations issued by OSHA and the United States Coast Guard including the requirement to test the subsea blowout preventer every two weeks. The Defendants knew of the dangers of deep water drilling and failed to take appropriate measures to protect workers and the environment.

Class Representative, George C. Simpson, and the other property owners similarly effected demand that the Defendants provide the cost of cleanup of the 5000+

barrels of crude oil lost daily since the incident and to pay for the consequential damages suffered by the Class.

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