

## FACT SHEET ON LITIGATION

### **9/11 FAMILIES UNITE TO BANKRUPT TERRORISM**

*Burnett et al v. Al Baraka Investment and Development Corporation et al*

#### **THE PURPOSE**

- To move terrorist financing schemes out of the shadows and into the light of day, exposing for the world the shady underbelly behind the atrocities of 9/11 and leaving those with malevolent intentions nowhere to hide and no place to escape accountability.

#### **THE PLAINTIFFS**

- More than 500 spouses, children, siblings and parents of those who perished on September 11, 2001, as well as survivors of the terrorist attacks on the United States. They are from the states of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina Texas and Virginia; the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; and the nations of Argentina, Canada, France, Paraguay and South Africa.

#### **THE DEFENDANTS**

- Seven international banks;
- Eight Islamic foundations, "charities" that front terrorism, and their subsidiaries;
- Individual terrorist financiers, including several members of the Saudi royal family and Osama bin Laden;
- The Saudi Bin Laden Group; and
- The Republic of Sudan.

#### **THE FACTS**

- The defendants knowingly provided financial support and other forms of assistance to Al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden and the Taliban, thereby helping the terrorists commit the atrocities of 9/11.

## **THE LAW**

- The USA Patriot Act of 2001 reinforces existing law that empowers victims to deter and punish terrorist acts against our nation, stating, "All Americans are united . . . in pursuing all those responsible for [the 9/11] attacks and their sponsors until they are brought to justice."
- The Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, the Torture Victim Protection Act, the Alien Tort Claims Act, and the Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act empower the 9/11 families to hold accountable those whose sponsorship of terrorism caused their loved ones to be taken away from them.
- Tort claims of Wrongful Death, Negligence, Survival, Infliction of Emotional Distress, Conspiracy, and Aiding and Abetting also are appropriate legal remedies to hold the defendants accountable, achieve justice for the families, and prevent future terrorist attacks.

## **THE LEGAL AND INVESTIGATIVE TEAM**

- Ron Motley and his firm, Ness Motley, led the state attorneys general legal fight against Big Tobacco that resulted in the historic \$350 billion settlement with the states, receiving honors from the National Association of Attorneys General and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Motley and his firm are pioneers in litigation against the asbestos industry and other mass tort claims.
- Allan Gerson is the nation's premier expert in bringing terrorists to justice through the courts, having broken new legal ground in helping the families of those who lost their lives on Pan Am Flight 103 pursue their claims against Libya.
- Jean-Charles Brisard, investigator, recently authored the most exhaustive study ever completed on the financial network of the bin Laden organization. "The Economic Network of the bin Laden Family," commissioned by the French government, was used to crack down on fraudulent Islamic charities operating inside France. He is an expert on business, corporate and diplomatic intelligence.
- Attorneys Harry Huges, Jack Cordray, and the firms of Russo, Scarnardella & D'Amato; Ramey Haley & Riley; Hanly & Confroy; and Mellon, Webster & Shelly; and Howarth & Smith are all leaders in complex mass tort and international litigation.