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R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Wins Flight Attendant Case in Florida

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. – Sept. 5, 2002 – A Miami jury found today that R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and other cigarette manufacturers are not liable in a suit filed by Suzette Ahrendt Janoff, a retired flight attendant who claimed to have developed chronic sinusitis and other injuries as a result of her on-the-job exposure to secondhand smoke.

The *Janoff* case is the fourth of its type to go to trial. A jury ruled against the tobacco industry in the *French* case in June 2002 and, for the industry in *Fontana* in April 2001. The other case, *Queipo*, ended in a mistrial in May 2002 and was subsequently dismissed.

“After hearing all the facts, the six-member jury unanimously agreed that Mrs. Janoff’s exposure to secondhand smoke in airplanes did not cause the injuries she claimed,” said Neil Kodsi, Reynolds Tobacco’s lead attorney in this case.

“This victory was particularly satisfying because an order that was entered in these flight-attendant cases effectively and wrongfully prevented us from fully defending ourselves. Despite this handicap, we prevailed,” Kodsi said.

Janoff claimed that she developed chronic sinusitis, asthma and other respiratory and pulmonary problems because of her exposure to secondhand smoke in aircraft cabins while she worked as a flight attendant from 1983 until March 1996 for American Airlines.

Kodsi noted: “Credible evidence does not exist to show that secondhand smoke causes chronic sinusitis or any of the other injuries Mrs. Janoff claimed even at the highest levels likely to be encountered by nonsmokers in real-world environments.

“Today’s verdict should put plaintiffs’ attorneys on notice that these types of contrived lawsuits will not pass muster with the public,” said Kodsi.

The *Janoff, French, Fontana and Queipo* cases are among approximately 2,800 suits filed by flight attendants seeking compensatory damages for injuries allegedly caused by exposure to secondhand smoke in aircraft cabins while they worked. These suits have been filed in Miami-Dade courts by individuals claiming to have been part of a class of flight attendants known as the *Broin* class.

Other defendants in the *Janoff* case included Philip Morris, Inc., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation and Lorillard Tobacco Company.

(For more information about the *Janoff* and *Broin* cases, go to: www.rjrt.com ... Tobacco Issues ... Litigation Case Backgrounders ... *Janoff* Backgrounder.)

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company (RJRT) is a wholly owned subsidiary of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: RJR). R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company is the second-largest tobacco company in the United States. For more information about RJRT, visit the company's web site at www.rjrt.com.