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NEWS RELEASE

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ATTORNEY GENERAL LAUTENSCHLAGER ANNOUNCES \$29 MILLION SETTLEMENT OVER FAULTY “SECOND CHANCE” BULLET-PROOF VESTS

Vests Made of Zylon Alleged to be Defective

MADISON - Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager today announced that Wisconsin law enforcement officers and agencies that purchased faulty bullet-proof vests will be compensated through the \$29 million settlement of a private class action lawsuit brought against the suppliers of Zylon. Zylon is the material manufacturers used in making the vests.

“Wisconsin’s men and women in law enforcement face life and death situations in which the effectiveness of a bullet-proof vest must be reliable,” Lautenschlager said. “This settlement replaces faulty vests, provides benefits for those who have purchased them, and sends a message that the safety of those who serve and protect us in Wisconsin will never be compromised.”

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) today received official notice of the \$29 million class action settlement, reached between a certified national class of consumers who purchased Second Chance Ultima, Ultimax, and Tri-Flex vests and defendants Toyobo Company, Ltd. and Toyobo America, Inc.

DOJ reports that members of the Wisconsin law enforcement community who purchased bullet-proof vests from Second Chance or one of the related entities will be notified of the benefits they will receive as a result of participation in this settlement.

In summary, the settlement provides benefits to class members who are purchasers and owners of Second Chance vests containing Zylon, which has been alleged to be defective in providing the protection it is purported to insure.

The settlement fund of \$29 million plus accrued interest will be deposited within ten days and ultimately divided among purchasers of the vests on a prorata basis. There will be no reduction for costs for administration, notice or attorneys' fees, as Toyobo has agreed to pay these separately. Each purchaser entitled to participate in the settlement will be notified of his/her rights and offered an opportunity to submit a claim. Each recipient of settlement monies is free to use the money received from the settlement fund in any manner he/she chooses.

DOJ is working with Wisconsin's law enforcement organizations to determine how many direct purchasers of Second Chance vests have been impacted. They will be notified by the Attorney General's Office as well as counsel for the class action settlement.

In addition to participation in the settlement fund, purchasers may be entitled to a replacement vest program in which replacement vests can be purchased at a negotiated reduced price. This settlement was preliminarily approved on July 12, 2005, by the District Court of Mayes County, Oklahoma, in which the class action suit was certified. The next hearing is scheduled for September 23, 2005. Further information about the settlement can be found by calling the settlement administrator at 1-877-567-2754. The Web site address is www.zylonvestclassaction.com.

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