



## Local couple file suit after bus accident

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The Gazette-Enterprise

Published April 6, 2010

SEGUIN — An attorney representing a Seguin couple injured last month in a rollover tour bus accident in which two other passengers died has filed a lawsuit in a Brownsville district court alleging negligence and seeking compensatory and exemplary damages for his clients.

Houston attorney Richard Mithoff, whose firm secured \$83 million in damages for Hurricane Rita evacuees killed in a bus explosion near Dallas, is representing Roman and Diana Anne Medina of Seguin as well as Sylvia Bandala of Charlotte.

The Medinas were hospitalized for more than a week and will undergo continuing medical treatment and rehabilitation in the wake of the March 16 crash in which an Americanos USA tour bus enroute to Mexico with 42 passengers apparently dropped a driveshaft and rolled over.

The lawsuit, e-filed Monday afternoon in 455th Judicial District Court in Cameron County, names Americanos USA, Greyhound Lines, MCI, Arvinmeritor and the bus driver involved in the accident among others as responsible for the crash, which occurred about 45 miles south of San Antonio.

The 14-page filing says Greyhound, its subsidiaries and employees and

the manufacturer of the bus and the subcontractor who built the driveshaft were all negligent to varying degrees, and alleges the negligence led to the injuries suffered by Bandala and the Medinas. Sylvia Bandala is Diana Medina's sister, the suit says.

"Obviously, we want to launch a full investigation to determine exactly what happened," Mithoff said Monday when reached at his office. "We've been involved in a number of these cases before, so we know some of the areas to look at."

Mithoff said evidence at the scene pointed to a failure in the driveshaft.

He didn't say whether it was believed the failure caused the accident or resulted from it.

"These are questions we want to look into in some depth, and then we want to recover damages for our clients," Mithoff said.

The lawsuit doesn't specify the amount of damages Mithoff hopes to recover for the Medinas and Bandala.

"Damages are undetermined at this point, but they will be substantial," Mithoff said. "We know that Mrs. Medina suffered a severe head injury in addition to broken ribs. With a head injury, it sometimes takes a little while before we know what the prognosis

will be. Her husband sustained a number of broken ribs and contusions. Hopefully, he will be able to recover."

Americanos USA spokeswoman Bonnie Bastian in Ohio said her company had not received official notice of the filing Monday.

"We have not received any legal documents pertaining to a lawsuit," Bastian said. "Naturally, we will respond to any legal documentation we receive."

The Americanos USA bus was headed from San Antonio to the Mexican border city of Matamoros, with a planned stop in Falfurrias.

Two buses were dispatched to the crash site to pick up uninjured passengers — one for those who wanted to continue on to Mexico and the other for those who wanted to return to San Antonio.

Diana Medina is undergoing treatment at a Seguin rehabilitation and recovery center.