

## **Federal Yamaha Rhino Rollover Lawsuits Consolidated**

**Suits charge design defects in the popular off-road vehicle caused catastrophic injuries and death**

(BIRMINGHAM, Al) Feb. 16, 2009 Attorneys representing Yamaha Rhino rollover victims are praising the decision to consolidate all Federal lawsuits involving the popular Yamaha Rhino Utility Terrain Vehicle. The United States Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (“JPML”) ordered that all Yamaha Rhino rollover Federal lawsuits be consolidated before a single judge. The cases are being assigned to a Federal Judge in Kentucky according to the JPML Transfer Order dated February 13, 2009. The action centralizes the Federal suits into Multidistrict Litigation (“MDL”) so that all pretrial discovery and litigation from all Federal Rhino cases will be heard in one court.

“This brings us closer to achieving justice for those killed or injured in Yamaha Rhino rollover accidents”, said attorney Jason Shamblin of Cory Watson Crowder & DeGaris. “It is a big step toward improving public safety.” Shamblin and lawyers at Cory Watson Crowder and DeGaris are representing more than 150 people hurt in Rhino accidents in over 35 states. Lawsuits filed against Yamaha allege the Rhino is prone to rollover accidents, and because of defects in its design, may result in broken or crushed arms, legs, feet, and ankles.

“Hundreds of people have suffered devastating, life-changing injuries and many have died because of the design defects in the Yamaha Rhino. The company must be held accountable”, said Shamblin who notes that the lawsuits allege Yamaha knew of the dangers, yet failed to adequately warn consumers. Shamblin and other attorneys representing Rhino rollover victims had asked the courts to consolidate the Federal cases. The Federal action does not affect the status of Yamaha Rhino rollover cases filed in state courts around the U.S.

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