

**PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 22, 2009**

**TWO SEPARATE LAWSUITS FILED AGAINST WINGATE INN IN OXFORD,**  
**ALABAMA STEMMING FROM HOT TUB CONTAMINATION**

A lawsuit filed last Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, in Calhoun County Circuit Court against Wingate Inns International, Inc. and Wyndham Worldwide Corporation, et al. is the second suit to be filed arising from an incident involving a hot tub contaminated with Legionella bacteria at the Wingate Inn located in Oxford, Alabama.

Birmingham attorney M. Todd Wheelles, of the law firm Morris, Haynes & Hornsby, is representing two employees of the Jefferson County Commission in separate lawsuits filed this June against Wingate Inns International, Inc. and Wyndham Worldwide Corporation, et al. The lawsuits are related to an incident that occurred in May of 2008 at the Wingate in the Anniston/Oxford area of Alabama. The Plaintiffs were sent by their employer to Heflin, Alabama to assist with a debris removal project following a tornado in the area and were staying at the Wingate Inn during this project. While staying at the Wingate Inn, the men used the hotel's hot tub which is provided for use to hotel guests.

As a result of the use of this hot tub, both men developed Legionnaire's disease and had to be hospitalized. Legionnaire's disease is an acute pneumonia caused by the Legionella bacteria that can exist in dirty or stagnant water. Legionnaire's disease can first present itself with flu-like symptoms, but these symptoms can get increasingly worse and eventually be fatal. Both Plaintiffs were hospitalized in Intensive Care Units where they were placed on respirators. These two men are still suffering the long-term effects of the Legionella bacterial infection. "Citizens of the State of Alabama should feel safe and secure in using the recreational facilities provided by a hotel," Wheelles said. "The Plaintiffs are hopeful that these lawsuits will result in more responsible management and maintenance of hotel recreational facilities in Alabama."

For further information please contact Todd Wheelles at (256) 596-1472.