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**Levin & Perconti Files Nursing Home Negligence Lawsuit Against the Renaissance at 87th
*Improper Care Leads to 92-year-old Resident's Death***

CHICAGO, January 14, 2010 - Today, attorneys Steven M. Levin and Margaret P. Battersby of Levin & Perconti filed a complaint in the Circuit Court of Cook County against the Renaissance at 87th Nursing Home in Chicago. The complaint was filed on behalf of a Riverdale woman* whose mother was a resident of the nursing home for five years. The complaint alleges that the 92-year-old African-American woman died in June 2009 because the nursing home failed to properly care for her gastric tube.

The resident, formerly of Chicago's Southwest Side, was admitted to the Renaissance at 87th in 2004. In December 2007, she received a gastric tube (g-tube) to receive food and medications, and from the time of insertion, the g-tube malfunctioned on several occasions. In May 2009, the resident's g-tube fell out, and nursing home staff inserted a Foley catheter to replace the tube.

Soon after, the resident's daughter began to notice changes in her mother's condition and behavior. She also observed that her mother's g-tube was retracting into her stomach and that it appeared to be infected. When she brought this to the attention of the nursing home staff, they ignored her complaints and assured her that they were doing everything necessary to care for her mother's g-tube.

For several days, the staff did little to treat the resident's malfunctioning g-tube and her condition worsened. On June 1, the Director of Nursing examined the resident's g-tube and immediately recognized her urgent medical condition. The resident's doctor ordered that she be transferred to a hospital immediately. Upon entering the hospital, her condition rapidly deteriorated, and she died on June 2 from aspiration and g-tube obstruction. Following an investigation, the Illinois Department of Public Health cited the Renaissance at 87th for improper nursing care.

"The Renaissance at 87th violated the Nursing Home Care Act by failing to provide the proper care to prevent our client's g-tube from malfunctioning and becoming infected," said Steve Levin. "The nursing home did not have sufficient or appropriately trained staff to care for her complex medical needs and this lack of training led them to improperly care for her g-tube, causing serious harm."

He added, "Throughout my practice of nursing home litigation, I have seen many instances where nursing home owners put profits before their residents' needs. In order to increase their own profits,

they operate their nursing homes with minimal, undertrained staff, and this creates an environment where even the most well-intentioned workers cannot deliver the level of care that residents need.”

The resident’s daughter visited her mother daily to ensure she was receiving the best care possible, however, she continually witnessed acts of negligence. “I was there every day, and yet there were times when I discovered my mother in terrible condition,” she recalls. “On a number of visits, I found that the staff had not bathed her or changed her clothes or undergarments. I filed numerous complaints and even became active in the nursing home’s family council in order to try to fight for better care for my mother. Despite my involvement, they still failed to properly care for her, and she died as a result.”

She added “Many of the residents at the nursing home could not communicate or fend for themselves. A lot of them did not have family members present to advocate on their behalf. I hope that by filing this lawsuit, I can help to protect these residents by exposing the widespread failures at the Renaissance at 87th.”

In recent months, the epidemic of poor care in Chicago’s nursing homes has been brought to light by many local media outlets. In addition to the *Chicago Tribune’s* “Compromised Care” series, the *Chicago Reporter* revealed great racial disparities between predominantly black and predominantly white nursing homes in Chicago. The Reporter found that the State of Illinois has the highest number of poorly rated predominantly black nursing homes in the country. The Renaissance at 87th is among those that received the lowest rating - one star - from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Nursing Home Compare website.

Levin & Perconti is a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all areas of personal injury, medical malpractice and wrongful death litigation. The lawyers at Levin & Perconti are committed to protecting and defending the rights of people who have been injured by the negligence of others. Please contact the firm at (312) 332-2872 or visit www.levinperconti.com for more information.

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***Note: Names have been omitted at client’s request to protect their privacy**