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\$975,000 Settlement for Family of Man Who Fell from Chicago Apartment Porch
Lawsuit: Son's Death a Result of Landlord's Failure to Comply with City Code

CHICAGO, September 13, 2011– Yesterday in the Circuit Court of Cook County, the Honorable Judge Kathy Flanagan approved a \$975,000 settlement in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Jane Heflin of Lombard, IL against Stammich Management, L.L.C. Stammich Management owned and managed the apartment building located at 1909 North Bissell Street where Jane's son Sean Heflin fell from a second floor balcony and landed on the concrete below. Sean died of his injuries seven months later. Attorneys Steven M. Levin and Michael F. Bonamarte of Levin & Perconti represented the family.

Sean Heflin, then 24, fell from a porch railing at his girlfriend's house on July 1, 2007. The lawsuit, filed in January 2008, alleged that the porch railings were approximately 10 inches lower than the Chicago Building Code requirement of 42 inches. The lawsuit further alleged that Sean's untimely death would have been avoided if the rails were the appropriate height.

"Jane Heflin filed suit to focus attention on porch safety to avoid similar tragedies in the future," said attorney Steven Levin.

According to Levin, "The Chicago Building Code requires building owners and landlords to maintain porches in a safe condition. Stammich Management had a duty under the law to maintain its building in a reasonably safe condition for the safety of their tenants and their guests."

Sean suffered a traumatic brain injury in the fall, which claimed his life on January 14, 2008. "In light of the catastrophic events that have occurred in Chicago where young people have died because of unsafe porches, it is tragic that accidents like this continue to happen," added Levin. "Tenants trust their landlords to maintain a safe environment by following the City's building code. Stammich Management breached this trust, and as a result, a 24-year-old man's life was cut short."

"We hope that Sean's case will set an example for other landlords in Chicago, and will motivate them to maintain their properties in accordance with the City Code to prevent future accidents," said Levin.

Levin & Perconti is a nationally-renowned Chicago law firm representing clients throughout Illinois in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death litigation. The lawyers at Levin & Perconti have recovered over \$400 million on behalf of clients, and are committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are 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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