

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information call: Marikay Martin
847.732.6996

IDPH Cites Woodbridge Nursing Pavilion -- Levin & Perconti Settle Case in Woman's Death

November 29, 2007— CHICAGO -- Steven M. Levin and Michael F. Bonamarte of the Chicago law firm, Levin & Perconti recently settled a lawsuit in Circuit Court of Cook County for \$532,000.00 against Woodbridge Nursing Pavilion (2242 N. Kedzie, Chicago) brought by Osvaldo Hernandez (Chicago) on behalf of his mother, Basilisa Hernandez. Mrs. Hernandez was a resident who died as a result of a head trauma sustained while under their care. Woodbridge was cited by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for violations of the Illinois Administrative Code concerning resident care. Woodbridge was cited for failing to provide proper supervision to Mrs. Hernandez. Due to her impaired mental status caused by the Alzheimer's disease, she had been assessed as a high risk for falls and wandering

83-year old Basilisa Hernandez was a resident of Woodbridge Nursing Pavilion from March 9, 2000 until August 7, 2003. Basilisa had been admitted with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's and required frequent monitoring to prevent her from falling or wandering throughout the facility.

Attorney Steven Levin explained the tragedy that caused Basilisa's death: "Basilisa Hernandez's initial assessment indicated that she was at high risk for falls and wandering throughout the facility and required supervision to keep her safe.

Unfortunately, Basilisa suffered several documented falls. Despite these incidents, Woodbridge staff failed to take any precautions to protect Basilisa from further falls and to prevent her from wandering. Tragically, on August 7, 2003 at approximately 9:00 p.m., Basilisa wandered unsupervised through an exit door. She was found at the bottom of a staircase covered in blood and with injuries to her head. As a result of this fall, Basilisa Hernandez suffered a fractured skull and an intracranial hemorrhage which led to her death.”

Michael Bonamarte added: “This tragedy would not have occurred if Woodbridge had implemented a plan of care to protect Basilisa Hernandez. The staff failed to properly supervise her despite her significant risks for falling. Additionally, there were no working door alarms to prevent her from wandering the facility. Osvaldo Hernandez trusted Woodbridge to keep his mother supervised and safe. Woodbridge and their staff betrayed that trust by leaving his mother vulnerable and unprotected.”

###