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\$6 million accord in fire that killed 6

By *Pat Milhizer*
Law Bulletin staff writer

The families of six children who were killed in a Rogers Park fire will receive \$6 million from the building owner and management company under a settlement approved on Tuesday.

The fire occurred in September 2006 in an apartment that lacked a smoke detector. The complex also had a few smoke alarms in common areas that had been recalled in 1992 because of potential failure to sound, the families alleged.

Due to unpaid electric bills, power to the apartment had been shut off and the family had been using battery-operated lights and candles.

Augusta and Amado Ramirez, who rented the apartment, lost five children whose ages ranged from 3 to 14. Two of their other children were hurt in the blaze. The family received \$5 million in the settlement.

Maria Ramos, whose 3-year-old daughter died in the fire, will receive \$1 million.

Both families, who will receive the payments in installments, were represented by [John J. Perconti](#) and [Patricia L. Gifford](#) of Levin & Perconti.

The Ramirez family owed several thousand dollars in unpaid electric bills, said Perconti, who added that the blaze resulted in the city establishing a program to provide money to low-income families whose electricity is disconnected.

Commonwealth Edison was not part of the settlement because the company followed state guidelines for turning off a customer's electricity, Perconti said.

"From the family's perspective, they're obviously relieved that this matter has been resolved. It's been a difficult year for them," Perconti said.

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"As far as the case is concerned, we hope this sends a message to all landlords and property owners that there be an inspection system utilized to inspect for working and operating smoke detectors in all buildings so incidents like this don't happen again," Perconti said.

The defendants — Marshway Limited Partnership, Marshway LLC and CIG Management LLC — were represented by [Martin A. Kanofsky](#) of Merlo, Kanofsky, Brinkmeier & Gregg Ltd.

Kanofsky could not be reached for comment.

Cook County Associate Judge [Elizabeth M. Budzinski](#) approved the settlement.

Augusta Ramirez and Amado Ramirez, etc. v. Marshway Limited Partnership, et al., No. 06 L 009988



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