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**CONTACT:** Ellen R. Katkin (202) 772-1960

**Virginia Lawyers Weekly Recognizes Gilbert LLP for Winning Largest 2010 Jury Verdict in the State**

**Washington, D.C.** – Gilbert LLP obtained the largest verdict in Virginia Lawyers Weekly’s list of the “Largest Jury Verdicts of 2010” by securing a \$26 million award in *In Re: Outsidewall Tire Litigation*, after a seven day trial in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The copyright infringement case was brought against large multi-national tire companies from China and Dubai on behalf of the firm’s client, Jordan Fishman, a mining tire inventor, and his companies.

The jury awarded Mr. Fishman \$26 million after finding that the defendants illegally copied his designs for unique mining tires. The jury found that Mr. Fishman’s former head of sales gave Fishman’s blueprints to the defendants, including China-based Shandong Linglong Rubber Company, LLC and Dubai-based Al Dobowi Tyre Company, Ltd. The conspiracy began in 2005, when the chairman of the Dubai-based tire company had a clandestine meeting with Fishman’s employee at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

“The jury reached the appropriate verdict because the defendants stole Mr. Fishman’s life’s work and profited immensely from the theft,” said August J. Matteis, Jr., a partner at Gilbert LLP.

**About Gilbert LLP**

Based in Washington, DC, Gilbert LLP is a law firm that represents a wide range of clients, including corporations, partnerships, non-profit organizations and individuals in complex disputes, including high-stakes litigation, class actions and alternative dispute resolution forums. Best known for representing policyholder interests in insurance coverage matters, Gilbert LLP also has an active commercial litigation practice. For more information about Gilbert LLP, visit [www.gotofirm.com](http://www.gotofirm.com).

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## VIRGINIA'S LARGEST VERDICTS OF 2010

### COPYRIGHT/TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT

# #1

# \$26 million

#### In Re: Outsidewall Tire Litigation

**Type of Case:** Copyright and trademark infringement, theft of trade secrets

**Court:** U.S. District Court, Alexandria

**Attorneys:** August J. Matteis Jr., Washington

**Summary:** Jordan Fishman and his companies – Tire Engineering & Distribution LLC and Alpha Tire Systems – alleged that their former top salesman, a Chinese tire manufacturer and a tire distributor from Dubai conspired to steal their trade secrets and infringed on their copyrights and trademarks involving underground mining tires.

Fishman had stepped into the niche created when such major tire manufacturers as Michelin and Goodyear abandoned the underground tire market. A Chinese manufacturer made the tires that Fishman's companies designed and distributed for \$3,500 to \$6,000 apiece.

He contended the salesman tried to get the manufacturer to deal directly with customers and cut him out. The salesman went to another Chinese company, Shandong Linglong Rubber Co. Ltd., when the manufacturer refused to do so and brought in the Dubai distributor, Al Dobowi Ltd., as part of the alleged scheme.

The defendants contended the court lacked jurisdiction over them and argued that the trademarks and copyrights were invalid and that what the plaintiffs alleged were trade secrets and confidential information were in the public domain.

The case is on appeal to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.



**MATTEIS**