

**\$950,000
SETTLEMENT
FOR
DEFECTIVE
CHAIR**

Joseph Hall received a \$950,000 settlement due to a faulty chair. Chris Searcy and Chris Speed represented Mr. Hall in the case.

In September 1996, Mr. Hall was visiting friends when the Rubbermaid chair he was sitting on collapsed without warning. He was thrown backwards, and suffered a herniated disc in his lower back. Mr. Hall had to undergo two lower back surgeries to repair the disc and to prevent a spinal fluid leak, which began shortly after the first surgery.

Because of the herniated disc and spine injury, Mr. Hall has a condition known as neurogenic bladder and bowel. He is no longer able to appropriately control normal bladder and bowel functions. He is faced with a lifetime of urinary urgency and dysfunction, as well as a loss of rectal sensation and bowel control. He also suffers from pain in his lower back that extends into his legs.

In their review of the case, Mr. Searcy and Mr. Speed determined that the components of the chair in which Mr. Hall was seated were not appropriately made and had significant defects. The defects in construction and manufacturing resulted in the arms of the chair snapping under very little pressure. This caused the chair and Mr. Hall to be thrown backwards.

Suit was filed in Port St. Lucie against the manufacturer of the chair. Several weeks before trial, Mr. Searcy and Mr. Speed were able to effect a settlement for Mr. Hall in the amount of \$950,000. ♦