

Law firm files another suit against Orkin

BY ROBIN LONDNER

The West Palm Beach law firm of Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, which won \$3 million from Orkin Exterminating in September, said it has filed another complaint against the pest control firm and its parent company, Rollins.

The firm said it filed the complaint in Broward County Circuit Court. Searcy Denney said the complaint also names Greg Saladino, Orkin's local branch manager.

Filed Feb. 13 on behalf of 80-year-old widow Elisa Rose Giordano, the complaint alleges an Orkin employee forged Giordano's late husband's signature on a service contract seven months after Michael Giordano passed away.

Seeking judgment for recoverable damages, including compensatory damages, attorneys' fees and costs, the complaint alleges Orkin and Russell acted in a pattern of racketeering, including, but not limited to, the predicate acts of theft, fraud and forgery and/or attempted criminal acts.

"This is just another outrageous example of Orkin abusing the people of

Florida," said attorney Sean C. Domnick of Searcy Denney.

\$3 million awarded in prior case

In September, following an eight-day arbitration hearing in Jacksonville, Searcy Denney said its clients Collier and Peggie Black were awarded a total of \$3 million from Orkin, consisting of \$750,000 in compensatory damages and \$2.25 million in punitive damages.

The Blacks entered Orkin's arbitration process after what the law firm said was years of problems, including termite invasions and Orkin's failure to obtain both the proper permits and inspections for repair work.

Martha Craft, spokeswoman for Orkin, said the company is appealing that decision.

"We have asked for it to be heard again by another arbitration panel," she said.

Of the more recent suit, Craft said Orkin has not yet been notified of the filing, so she does not yet have any information on it.

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