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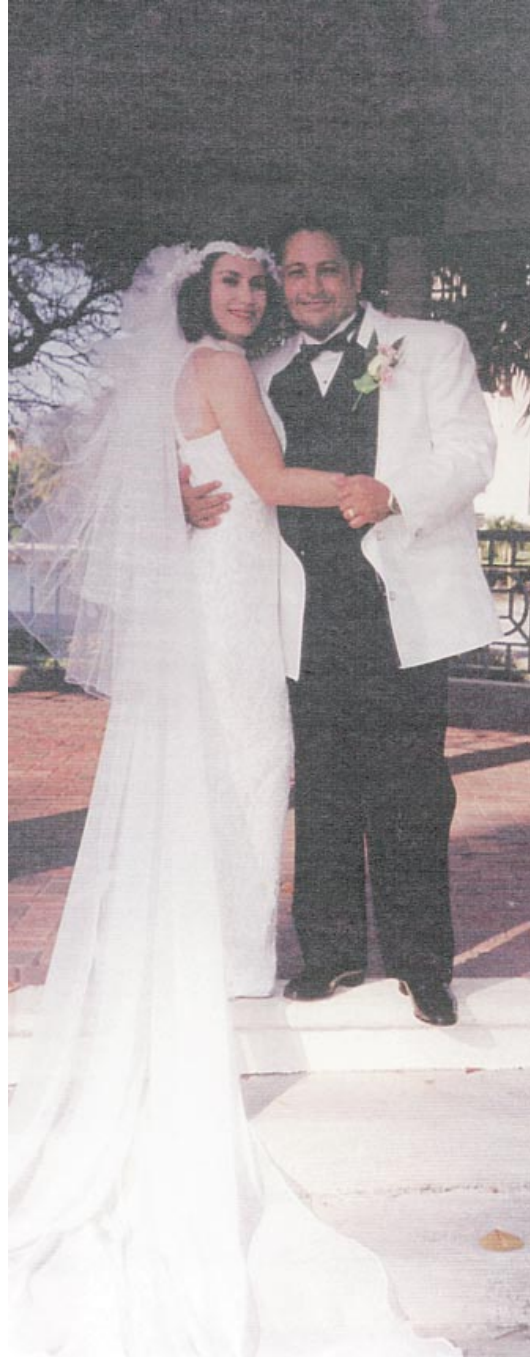
NOTE: The accounts of recent trials, verdicts and settlements contained in this newsletter are intended to illustrate the experience of the firm in a variety of litigation areas. Each case is unique, and the results in one case do not necessarily indicate the quality or value of any other case. Omitting Clients' names and/or Defendants' names are result of requests for anonymity.

Motorcycle Drive Turns Tragic For Newly Married Couple

Mr. Jose Ayala was celebrating 11 years of sobriety. His experiences with alcoholism had led him to help others who were struggling with their own addictions. He counseled more than 60 men at two recovery facilities, Bridge Back to Life and Sober Living in South Florida. As a consequence of his work helping others obtain sobriety, Mr. Ayala was well respected in the local community.

Mr. Ayala and his wife Tina had known each other for several years and were married on April 3, 1999. On Sunday, May 7, 2000, just a year after their wedding date, Mr. and Mrs. Ayala got on their Harley Davidson motorcycle, a recent purchase by Mr. Ayala, and drove northbound on South Ocean Boulevard in Highland Beach, Fla. At the same time, Paul Natalie, a delivery driver for Fratelli's Italian Restaurant, was driving south on South Ocean Boulevard. Without warning, Mr. Natalie turned directly in front of the Ayalas on their motorcycle, leaving them no chance to stop in time or avoid a collision. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ayala were thrown from the motorcycle. Mr. Ayala was pronounced dead later that evening at Delray Beach Community Hospital. Mrs. Ayala sustained severe injuries, including large lacerations and fractured bones in both legs. She had surgery and still is undergoing physical therapy today.

Attorney John Shipley was hired by Mrs. Ayala to investigate and prosecute her case. She was referred by attorney Michael Moskowitz of Moskowitz & Simowitz in Ft. Lauderdale. The insurance company for the restaurant was presented a claim for Mr. Ayala's death. In March of this year, prior to a lawsuit being filed, the insurance company agreed to a confidential settlement for Mr. Ayala's death. With these proceeds, Mrs. Ayala will be able to have some financial security to assist her in overcoming her tragic loss. ■



***Tina and Jose Ayala
on their wedding day,
April 3, 1999.***