

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pels, Anderson LLC Law Firm Pays Out \$881,080.35 *Cy Pres* Fund to Improve Maryland Mobile Home Parks

DC-area Firm Continues Track Record of Client Results and Community Support

Bethesda, Maryland – July, 2010 – The law firm of Pels Anderson, LLC announced today that it is paying out \$881,080.35 in cash to improve mobile home parks throughout the State of Maryland. The *Cy Pres* fund was created after years of litigation against various mobile home retail companies in the State wherein Pels Anderson, LLC advanced over \$250,000 in costs on behalf a putative class of mobile homeowners to prosecute the matter. The first case was filed in March, 2002.

The funds are the result of a series of mobile home legal actions prosecuted by Pels, Anderson, LLC. The first such case was *Ellerbe, et al. v. Chesapeake Mobile Homes, Inc., et al.*, No. C-2002-82562 Consolidated, Circuit Court Anne Arundel County. Prior to the lawsuit being filed by the firm, many counties in the State did not require footers to frost line in mobile home parks. As a result of the law firm's efforts, and after a deposition of the head engineer of the Department of Inspection for the State of Maryland, the counties not so requiring footers to the frost lien were forced to change policies to bring it into compliance with the lawsuits requests and the State's confirming mandate.

Bethesda-based attorneys Jon D. Pels and Lawrence J. Anderson, with practices in DC, Maryland and Virginia, were named **2007 Maryland Trial Lawyers of the Year** by the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association, after being nominated by Paul Bland, Esq. of Public Justice.

"Pels, Anderson is proud to provide the State of Maryland significant funds to help support local parks and the mobile home community," said Jon Pels, founding attorney for Pels, Anderson, LLC. "This money was earned thanks to the commitment, dedication and reputable work of our firm, the cooperation of our clients, and the proper enforcement of the law – we are honored to give back to the great state of Maryland." The Court stated the following with respect to the case:

"...I think that Plaintiff's counsel here has taken on a difficult challenge and they were, I think, very ably -- the claims were very ably defended, and I think all of the difficulties and all of the challenges described by Mr. Pels are very accurately stated."

"I want to say again that it has been an interesting experience for me. This is the first class action that I have been involved with I guess on either side of the bench, and I appreciate having the opportunity to work with fine counsel."

"It is, unfortunately, not every day that you get good lawyers in the courtroom and this is a really very impressive collection and I appreciate all of your efforts. Thank you very much counsel".

-Statements made by the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County in Approving Mobile Home Class Action Settlement. The firm wishes to state that no representation is made that this is an endorsement by a court but, rather, these are on the record quotations from the court respecting a case prosecuted by the firm.

In a subsequent corollary case against different Defendants, Pels Anderson, LLC was able to have a class certified over the objections of defense counsel Rubin & Rubin k/n/a/ Powers & Frost and Franklin & Prokopik. *Royal v. Eastern Homes, Inc.*, No. 13-C-04-059581 Circuit Court Howard County, Maryland (filed August, 2004). After an all day hearing including testimony from numerous experts and evidence from the State of Maryland and County, the court took the matter under advisement for approximately 5-months and then issued a memorandum order certifying a class in Maryland. Pels Anderson, LLC was able to obtain admissions from Defendants own expert through intensive deposition testimony lasting nearly one week that the homes were "unsafe."

On the eve of trial, Defendants settled and are currently retro-fitting hundreds of homes throughout the State. Such relief is believed to be unprecedented in the State. Additional compensation to individual homeowners was obtained and a *cy pres* fund of approximately \$80,000 will be paid over to legal aid for Maryland consumers.

The respective cases spanned nearly the last ten (10) years and required a large devotion of attorney time and costs on behalf of Pels Anderson, LLC. More background on Pels, Anderson, LLC and additional details of the cases listed in this announcement including the transcript referenced above can be found at www.pallaw.com.