

# For Immediate Release

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## **FEDERAL JUDGE RULES THAT FIFTH AVENUE TOWER IN NEW YORK CITY CAN BE SEIZED TO SATISFY JUDGMENTS FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM INCLUDING THE FAMILIES OF SEPTEMBER 11**

Manhattan, New York (June 29, 2017) – Today in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Judge Katherine B. Forrest ruled that victims of Iranian terrorism can now seize the assets of the Islamic non-profit, Alavi Foundation and Assa Corporation, known as the 650 Fifth Avenue Partnership. The assets will be used to satisfy multiple billion dollar judgments granted to the victims of Iran, including the victims of September 11, 2001. The assets include property in several states as well as a high-rise tower on Fifth Ave in New York, with an estimated value between \$700 million to \$1 billion dollars. The trial took place over the last four weeks at the same time as the US Attorney for the Southern District of New York presented a forfeiture proceeding to a jury. Today, the jury ruled in the government's favor as well.

Indianapolis attorneys Mary Beth Ramey and Rich Hailey have been a part of a small consortium of 10 attorneys who filed actions for over 200 families of 9/11 victims beginning in 2002. In October of 2012, they obtained a compensatory judgment for \$1.4 billion dollars. Yesterday's finding will permit their clients to receive a substantial satisfaction of their outstanding compensatory damages. "This journey started 15 years ago and now I feel I can see the light at the end of the tunnel," said Mary Beth Ramey who along with her husband and law partner Rich Hailey committed to the anti-terrorist litigation 15 years ago. Rich Hailey emphasized that, "our goal is to assist in defunding terrorism and collecting on the judgments our clients so richly deserve."

The underlying case for the Havlish families was *Havlish v. Islamic Republic of Iran and Bin Laden, et al.* as part of the *In Re Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001* litigation, filed in the Southern District of New York. On October 12, 2012, after years of investigation by the Havlish consortium of attorneys, the Court issued an Order of Judgment, finding the Plaintiffs had presented enough evidence that the Islamic Republic of Iran had provided direct material support to al-Qaeda in carrying out the attacks of September 11, 2001. The Court awarded the sum of \$6,048,513,805 for compensatory damages and punitive damages to over 200 families in the Havlish litigation.