



R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Pleased with Decertification of Simon II

Winston-Salem, N.C. – May 6, 2005 – R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company applauds today’s unanimous decision by the 2nd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to overturn a class-certification order in a smoking and health case that was entered on Sept. 19, 2002 by a federal judge in Brooklyn, N.Y.

“This decision is correct and in line with decisions made by every other federal court and most state courts, which have determined that class action lawsuits are not appropriate for trying smoking and health cases,” said Charles A. Blixt, executive vice president and general counsel for R.J. Reynolds.

Jack B. Weinstein, senior U.S. district judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, had certified the Simon II class as a nationwide, “punitive damages non-opt-out class.” With some exceptions, the class consisted of any U.S. resident who had ever smoked and had been diagnosed with various specified smoking-related diseases since April 9, 1993.

[R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company](#) (R.J. Reynolds) is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of [Reynolds American Inc.](#) (NYSE: RAI). R.J. Reynolds is the second-largest tobacco company in the United States, manufacturing about one of every three cigarettes sold in the United States. R.J. Reynolds’ product line includes five of the nation’s 10 best-selling cigarette brands: Camel, Winston, Kool, Salem and Doral. For more information about R.J. Reynolds, visit the company’s Web site at www.RJRT.com.

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