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RJRT 2004-05

### **R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Wins Alvarez Case: Individual Smoker Suit in Puerto Rico**

**WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. – April 6, 2004** – The U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico dismissed an individual smoking and health case on April 5 in favor of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. The court concluded that Reynolds Tobacco was not responsible for the illness of Francisco Garcia Lopez, a smoker whose family claimed that his smoking Winston cigarettes for 40 years caused his death.

The court granted summary judgment in the case brought by Lopez' wife Virginia Prado Alvarez, children and grandchildren, and dismissed the case. Among other things, Senior Judge Jaime Pieras Jr. found that Reynolds Tobacco "cannot be liable for merely manufacturing and marketing cigarettes that have health risks and are allegedly addictive." This court decision continues a trend of dismissals in smoking and health cases brought by individual plaintiffs.

"This decision illustrates once again that judges generally will apply the law to the facts objectively and reconfirms the strength of our defenses in individual lawsuits," said Daniel W. Donahue, senior vice president and deputy general counsel for Reynolds Tobacco.

*R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company (RJRT) is a wholly owned subsidiary of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: RJR). R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company is the second-largest tobacco company in the United States, manufacturing about one of every four cigarettes sold in the United States. Reynolds Tobacco's product line includes four of the nation's 10 best-selling cigarette brands: Camel, Winston, Salem and Doral. For more information about RJRT, visit the company's web site at [www.RJRT.com](http://www.RJRT.com).*

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