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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BERG INJURY LAWYERS SETTLES LAWSUIT
AGAINST THE WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ON BEHALF OF SCHOOL BEATING VICTIM**

Alameda, Calif., (January 10, 2007)—Berg Injury Lawyers has settled a lawsuit for an undisclosed amount against the West Contra Coast Unified School District on behalf of Hassan Rahgozar, a high school student who was twice beaten at Hercules Middle/High School during spring 2005. The second attack was videotaped and posted to the Internet. The lawsuit was filed on December 5, 2005, in the Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa (Case No. C 05-02539).

The complaint alleged that the school district failed to maintain security at Hercules Middle/High School, failed to adequately supervise students at the school, failed to prevent adults and unauthorized persons from coming on the school campus and committing acts of violence against Rahgozar, and failed to protect Rahgozar from verbal and physical harassment and attacks. Seven young men who were involved in the attacks were also named as defendants in the lawsuit.

Rahgozar, an Iranian-American citizen, was attacked in a boys' bathroom at Hercules Middle/High School on May 6, 2005, by a fellow student and a non-student, who was not authorized to be at Hercules Middle/High School. At the time of the incident, Rahgozar was 17 years old, and both assailants were 18 years old.

The two men were supported in the assault by another student, who videotaped the attack and posted it on the Internet, where thousands viewed it before it was removed. Video clips of the assault have been broadcast on news programs across the country.

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Rahgozar suffered a broken jaw and two black eyes in the attack. The assailants both faced felony assault charges stemming from the attack. The non-student who attacked Rahgozar pleaded no contest to battery causing serious bodily injury. He was sentenced to one year in the county jail and to three years probation. The student who attacked Rahgozar pleaded guilty in juvenile court to charges connected with the beating.

The second attack was preceded by an attack on April 29, 2005, during which Rahgozar was assaulted, battered, and robbed by four fellow students—making the circumstances of the attack on May 6, 2005, particularly vicious. After the initial attack, Rahgozar’s mother met with school officials and informed them of the physical attack as well as the ongoing, continuous insults, racial slurs, and threats to which Rahgozar had been subjected to by this group of individuals. Despite knowledge and awareness of the of the racial slurs and insults and the threat of violence against Rahgozar, Hercules Middle/High School and the West Contra Costa Unified School District failed to adequately protect Rahgozar and other students.

“I hope that teachers and school officials everywhere will let this case serve as a reminder to be even more watchful of our students and keep in touch with the day-to-day happenings of their students’ lives,” says William Berg, founder and principal of Berg Injury Lawyers. “No student should ever feel threatened when attending school.”

About Berg Injury Lawyers

Berg Injury Lawyers has successfully litigated a wide range of personal injury claims throughout northern California since 1981. With a staff of over fifty legal professionals, the Alameda-based law firm specializes in plaintiffs’ personal injury law. Berg Injury Lawyers take great pride in their reputation as aggressive litigators and persuasive negotiators always committed to representing the rights of individuals injured by the negligent conduct of others. For more information, visit www.BergInjuryLawyers.com.

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