

Groundbreaking Settlement on Behalf of Southern African Gold Miners Suffering from Silicosis and Tuberculosis

Related Lawyers: **Richard S. Lewis, Reena A. Gambhir**

Related Practice Areas: **Human Rights and Environmental Disputes, Environmental Threats, Mass Torts and Public Health Threats**

Hausfeld is proud to announce that on Friday, July 26, 2019, the High Court of South Africa in Johannesburg approved a groundbreaking settlement on behalf of Southern African gold miners suffering from occupational lung disease. This historic class action settlement, the first ever of its kind in South Africa, reflects more than a decade of preparation and litigation aimed at providing compensation to gold miners who suffered from silicosis and tuberculosis over the last 50 years.

In May 2016, the Johannesburg High Court certified the case as a class action against most of South Africa's gold mining industry by a unanimous three-judge panel. Extensive negotiations over a three-year period with the defendants resulted in this landmark settlement. The settlement calls for the compensation of all eligible gold miners who suffered silicosis or tuberculosis and sets up a trust to provide medical examinations to miners and compensation payments. Benefits for eligible miners will be in the range from 10,000 to 500,000 South African Rand.

"This groundbreaking settlement brings much-needed relief to thousands of workers whose legal rights were ignored and forgotten. The High Court's approval of the settlement begins to bring justice to this system," said Hausfeld partner Richard Lewis.

Hausfeld, along with the South African law firm Abrahams Kiewitz Inc., first filed the case in August 2012. The case was consolidated with another action brought a few months later by South African attorney Richard Spoor, with assistance from Motley Rice, and these firms, along with The Legal Resources Center, worked together to achieve class certification and settlement.

More more information about the case, please visit our case page.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

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About Hausfeld

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Hausfeld is the only claimants' firm to be ranked by the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners as a top tier firm in private enforcement of antitrust/competition law in both the United States and Europe. For more information about the firm, including recent trial victories and landmark settlements, please visit www.hausfeld.com.

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