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'Indescribable Horror' of Amtrak Derailment Prompts Suits

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Of the Legal staff

A cluster of lawsuits against Amtrak stemming from last week's derailment that injured over 200 people and killed eight has been filed in Pennsylvania.

At a news conference held by Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky and Kline & Specter, lawyers announced the launch of a group of cases against Amtrak in federal court in Pennsylvania.

Saltz Mongeluzzi co-founder Robert Mongeluzzi, who is representing four clients along with **Thomas R. Kline** of Kline & Specter, repeatedly characterized the accident as "a scene out of hell," and within the derailed train cars, "a scene of indescribable horror."

Speed kills, Mongeluzzi said, and it was the primary factor in causing the train's derailment. He also dismissed the alternate theory that a projectile striking the train could have caused the accident.

"The train was speeding. ... There is no excuse for a train to be going twice the legal limit," Mongeluzzi said. "The claim that some projectile hit the train is utterly irrelevant, a red herring."

Both Kline and Mongeluzzi said they look forward to deposing the engineer operating train 188 who claimed he could not remember anything from the accident.

"The conduct of the engineer is both unconscionable and unfathomable," Kline said.

Robert Goggin III, the attorney for engineer Brandon Bostian—who was not named as a defendant in the master complaint—did not return a call seeking comment. An Amtrak spokesman said the company does not comment on pending litigation.

In addition to being responsible for the excessive speed of the train as it approached a sharp curve in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia, Kline said Amtrak declined to install safety controls that would have regulated the speed of the train.

"That was the deadly choice that Amtrak made," Kline said.

The four plaintiffs in the suits handled by Kline and Mongeluzzi include Felicidad Redondo Iban, 64, of Leon, Spain, whose right arm was nearly severed in the accident; her cousin, Maria Jesus Redondo Iban, 55, who suffered a concussion and lacerations to the face; Daniel Armyn, 43, of Brooklyn, New York, who sustained three

broken ribs and lost teeth; and Amy Miller, 39, of Princeton, New Jersey, who suffered back injuries and numerous cuts.

Mongeluzzi and Kline said they are speaking to more potential clients but have not as of yet been approached by the families of any of the deceased passengers ...