

Understanding Construction Defect Laws

Orange County Home

October 2001 - Attorneys Thomas Miller and Rachel Miller, a father-daughter legal team in Newport Beach, have released a consumer handbook to help navigate homeowners through the legal process involving construction defects.

The handbook titled, "Home and Condo Defects: A Consumer Guide to Faulty Construction," (Seven Locks Press; \$9.95) provides a primer in the basics of construction defect law, and summarizes the most common types of residential construction defects, including leaky roofs, improperly attached decks, cracked foundations and sick-building syndrome. Because most defects are the result of substandard construction practices, consumers may have legal recourse to seek damages in court. The new handbook guides homeowners through the entire process, from identifying defects to finding an attorney and understanding their legal options.

The Millers' law firm has recovered more than \$17 million for Aliso Viejo residents in the last decade. Thomas Miller achieved a settlement of \$9.4 million, against some of the county's largest builders for homeowners, in a well-known Laguna Niguel Crown Valley Condo landslide in 1998. Ongoing lawsuits in this area are riddled with construction-related problems, such as fungal damage caused from water seepage and balconies that fall off the site of the building.

The book is available at local Barnes & Noble bookstores, or through Seven Locks Press at (800) 354-5348.