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No. 62996-4-1

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**IN THE COURT OF APPEALS  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DIVISION I**

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MICHAEL FARROW and LIDIA FARROW,  
husband and wife,

*Plaintiffs/Appellants,*

v.

ALFA LAVAL, INC., et al.,

*Defendants/Respondents.*

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**BRIEF OF RESPONDENT J.T. THORPE & SON, INC.**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Respondent J.T. Thorpe & Son, Inc. (“J.T. Thorpe”) respectfully joins in the arguments, authorities, and facts stated in the Brief of Respondents Crane Co., Garlock Sealing Technologies, Inc., Fairbanks Morse Pump Corporation, Coltec Industries, McWane, Inc. and in the Brief of Respondents Leslie Controls, Inc. and ITT Corporation.<sup>1</sup> Both briefs ask this Court to affirm the trial court’s dismissal of all claims based on Michael and Lidia Farrow’s disclaimer of all causes of action arising from asbestos exposure occurring within a federal enclave.

## II. STATEMENT OF ISSUES

1. Whether the Court should affirm dismissal of all claims against J.T. Thorpe because the Farrow’s disclaimed all causes of action based on exposure to asbestos occurring in a federal enclave, and all exposures alleged against J.T. Thorpe occurred in the federal enclave of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

## III. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

A. Joinder in Briefs Addressing “Federal Enclave” Disclaimer filed by Crane Co., Garlock Sealing Technologies, Inc., Fairbanks Morse Pump Corporation, Coltec Industries, McWane, Inc., Leslie Controls, Inc. and ITT Corporation.

In *Farrow v. Alfa Laval, Inc.*, subject to this appeal, defendant IMO Industries, Inc. (“IMO”) moved for summary judgment based on the Farrow’s “federal enclave”

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<sup>1</sup> Appellants initially noticed two appeals – *Farrow v. Leslie Controls*, No. 62996-4-1 (involving just Leslie Controls, Inc. and ITT Corporation) and *Farrow v. Alfa-Laval*, No. 63554-9-1 (involving the rest of the defendants/respondents) – which were subsequently consolidated by court order. Though the two appeals have been consolidated under No. 62996-4-1, substantive briefs have been filed by two groups of Respondents who were each involved in the separate cases filed by the Farrow’s. Respondent J.T. Thorpe therefore joins in both of these substantive briefs.

disclaimer. L-CP 51.<sup>2</sup> Most Defendants, including J.T. Thorpe, joined in IMO's Motion for Summary Judgment. A- CP 481. IMO and the joining defendants argued that the Farrows' disclaimer entitled them to a dismissal of all claims associated with Farrows' asbestos exposure at PSNS, including any alleged exposures that occurred on Naval vessels docked at PSNS. L- CP 51.

In this appeal, J.T. Thorpe joins and incorporates by this reference as though set forth fully herein all facts and evidence presented in the Brief of Respondents Crane Co., Garlock Sealing Technologies, Inc., Fairbanks Morse Pump Corporation, Coltec Industries , McWane, Inc. and in the Brief of Respondents Leslie Controls, Inc. and ITT Corporation, both of which ask this Court to affirm the trial court's dismissal of all claims based on Michael and Lidia Farrow's disclaimer of all causes of action arising from asbestos exposure occurring within a federal enclave.

**B. Facts Specific to J.T. Thorpe.**

The Farrows can present no evidence supporting any claim against J.T. Thorpe arising from asbestos exposure outside Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. When asked whether he thought he was exposed to asbestos fibers that he inhaled while he was in the Navy, for example, Mr. Farrow responded: "I have no idea if I was or not." A-CP 519. Plaintiff has no evidence that Michael Farrow encountered and was exposed to asbestos anywhere other than Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. As such, Plaintiff's

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<sup>2</sup> As noted above, Appellants initially noticed two appeals – *Farrow v. Leslie Controls*, No. 62996-4-1 (involving just Leslie and ITT) and *Farrow v. Alfa-Laval*, No. 63554-9-1 (involving the rest of the defendants/respondents) – which were subsequently consolidated by court order into No. 62996-4-1. In this regard, Appellants prepared two separate sets for Clerk's Papers, and cited to both in their opening brief. J.T. Thorpe will use the same designations as Appellants to avoid duplication and additional confusion. Thus, Citations to "L-CP" will be to the Clerk's Papers for No. 62996-4-L, and citations to "A-CP" will be to the Clerk's Papers for No. 63554-9-1.

disclaimer of claims arising in a federal enclave applies to all of Plaintiff's claims against J.T. Thorpe.

#### IV. ARGUMENT

##### A. Summary Judgment Standard.

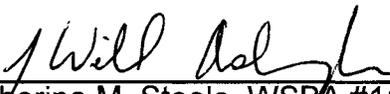
Summary judgment is reviewed *de novo*. *Braaten v. Saberhagen Holdings, et al*, 165 Wn.2d at 383, 198 P.3d 493 (citing *Osborn v. Mason County*, 157 Wn.2d 18, 22, 134 P.3d 197 (2006)). Summary judgment is appropriate when there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. CR 56(c). Evidence is construed in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. *Braaten v. Saberhagen Holdings, et al*, 165 Wn.2d at 383, 198 P.3d 493.

##### B. Joinder in Crane Co.'s, Garlock Sealing Technologies, Inc.'s, Fairbanks Morse Pump Corporation's, Coltec Industries', McWane, Inc.'s, Leslie Controls, Inc.'s and ITT Corporation's "Federal Enclave" Authorities.

J.T. Thorpe joins and incorporates by this reference as though set forth fully herein all facts, points, and authorities set forth in the Brief of Respondents Crane Co., Garlock Sealing Technologies, Inc., Fairbanks Morse Pump Corporation, Coltec Industries , McWane, Inc. and in the Brief of Respondents Leslie Controls, Inc. and ITT Corporation, both of which ask this Court to affirm the trial court's dismissal of all claims based on Michael and Lidia Farrow's disclaimer of all causes of action arising from asbestos exposure occurring within a federal enclave. There is no evidence that Mr. Farrow ever encountered any J.T. Thorpe product outside PSNS, and the Farrows' disclaimer therefore encompasses all claims against FMC. The facts, points, and authorities set forth in the above-referenced briefs apply with equal force to J.T. Thorpe and the trial court's judgment is properly affirmed on the same grounds.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 8th day of September, 2009.

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