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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$2.9 MILLION SETTLEMENT OBTAINED FOR MEMBERS OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 299

(Madison, Wisconsin) – A Madison labor attorney has engineered a settlement of \$2.9 million for members of Teamsters Local 299 in their lawsuit against U.S. Truck. The federal bankruptcy judge who presided over the matter recently approved the settlement agreement.

"This is an important victory for the union that has been a long time coming," said Attorney Kurt Kobelt, of the Madison firm Lawton & Cates. "We can finally begin to compensate union members for the company's violations of federal law and the union contract," he added.

The fight began in December 1999 when U.S. Truck Co. Holdings, Inc. closed its Romulus, Michigan, terminal and filed bankruptcy, putting approximately 214 union members out of work. Prior to closing the terminal, Local 299 had filed a grievance against the company for violating its contract by selling off parts of its operations.

After a 28-month legal battle, the bankruptcy judge ruled that U.S. Truck had violated its agreement with the union by closing the plant, and had also violated the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act.

After extensive negotiations, Kobelt obtained a settlement amount of \$2.9 million on behalf of the employees, which the union members then voted to accept.

"This was a long, hard fight, but it was worth it," Kobelt said. "The key was that the union stuck together and stood up for what they knew was right," he concluded.

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