



## **NYC Mesothelioma Lawyer Says Concerns Arising From Asbestos Exposure Scare at Queens School Are Justified**

*Joseph Belluck of Belluck & Fox, LLP, a New York City law firm that handles mesothelioma claims across the U.S., says that dangerous asbestos materials continue to be found in older buildings.*

New York, NY ([PRWEB](#)) October 18, 2011 -- Although no contamination was found, the recent discovery of asbestos in a Queens elementary school reflects the potential for harmful asbestos exposure faced by many people who live and work in older buildings, [New York City mesothelioma lawyer](#) Joseph W. Belluck said.

According to a recent report in the [New York Daily News](#), 100 students in five kindergarten classes at P.S. 143 in Queens were removed to other classrooms due to the threat that water leaks may have disturbed asbestos discovered in the roof beams of a school annex.

Although the report said that air tests failed to detect asbestos, several parents expressed concerns about their children's health to the newspaper, while one teacher said she could not believe the children would eventually be returned to the building.

"I understand the concerns of those who work in the building, and those whose children attend school there," said Belluck, a founding partner of Belluck & Fox, LLP, which has recovered millions of dollars in compensation on behalf of [asbestos exposure](#) victims and their families.

"Through the 1970s, asbestos was widely used in hundreds of building products, including roofing materials, ceiling tiles and insulation, and unfortunately, the risk of being unknowingly exposed to the mineral continues to this day," Belluck said. "The [asbestos removal](#) at this school must be done as thoroughly, safely and quickly as possible."

Asbestos is a mineral that has been linked to lung cancer and mesothelioma, a malignant cancer of the lining of the lung and abdomen that is closely associated with inhaling microscopic asbestos dust. About 2,500 to 3,000 Americans die each year of mesothelioma and thousands more die of lung cancer related to asbestos, Belluck said.

One problem with asbestos is that signs of illnesses such as mesothelioma may not develop until many decades after one's exposure. Additionally, family and friends may develop the deadly illness from being exposed to asbestos fibers on clothes, shoes, skin and hair.

The symptoms of mesothelioma include coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, weight loss, chest pains and a buildup of fluid in the chest.

"In our practice, we frequently assist workers and military veterans who were exposed to asbestos for years at their job or in the service, and they never realized it until they became sick," said Belluck, whose law firm recently won separate verdicts that collectively exceeded \$51 million on behalf of two workers who suffered from mesothelioma.

The cases – *Dummitt v. A.W. Chesterton, et al.* (Docket No. 190196/10) and *Konstantin v. 630 Third Avenue*



Associates, et al. (Docket No. 090134/10) – both were decided in the Supreme Court of New York, New York County.

“When an employer, landlord, manufacturer or other party should reasonably be on notice about the presence of asbestos, however, those parties need to be held fully accountable,” Belluck said, “and the victims and their families need to be compensated.”

New York law allows asbestos exposure victims to recover funds for medical expenses, funeral costs, lost wages, pain and suffering and other damages, Belluck said.

“[Mesothelioma lawsuits](#) can be highly complex matters and require extensive investigation to determine the source of the asbestos exposure,” Belluck said. “That’s why our law firm believes that we play an important role in helping mesothelioma victims obtain relief.

“Fortunately, we have been able to develop a great amount of expertise in this area, and we’ve been able to use our background and experience to help clients to move on with their lives.”

#### About Belluck & Fox

[Belluck & Fox, LLP](#), is a nationally recognized law firm that represents individuals with asbestos and mesothelioma claims, as well as victims of crime, motorcycle crashes, lead paint and other serious injuries. The firm provides personalized and professional representation and has won over \$400 million in compensation for clients and their families.

Partner [Joseph W. Belluck](#) is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and is listed in Best Lawyers in America, New York Magazine’s “Best Lawyers in the New York Area” and in Super Lawyers. Mr. Belluck has won numerous cases involving injuries from asbestos, defective medical products, tobacco and lead paint, including a recent asbestos case that settled for more than \$12 million.

Partner [Jordan Fox](#) is a well-known asbestos and mesothelioma attorney who has been named to the Best Lawyers in America, New York Magazine’s “Best Lawyers in the New York Area” and to Super Lawyers. On two separate occasions his verdicts were featured as the National Law Journal’s Largest Verdict of the Year. He recently secured verdicts of \$32 million and more than \$19 million on behalf of individuals who had contracted mesothelioma from asbestos exposure.

In September, Belluck & Fox, LLP, won a coveted spot on a list of America's best law firms, which was published jointly by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers magazine. The listing showcased 8,782 different law firms ranked in one or more of 81 major practice areas.

For more information, contact the firm at (877) 637-6843 or through the [online contact form](#).

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