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## 9/11 Lawyers Seek Black-Box Data on Saudi Hijackers

Call Congress toll free@

by Tom Flocco

**1-800-648-3516**

**November 27, 2002**

**TomFlocco.com**

### APPEARANCES:

Erskine Overnight Show  
Sunday Morning, Nov. 10,  
2002 Erskine Payton, host  
1 - 2 am Eastern / (Sat.  
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American Freedom News  
Friday, October 25, 2002  
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Rick Wiles, Host,  
WWCR-5070 SW, Ft Worth  
[AmericanFreedomNews.com](http://AmericanFreedomNews.com)

The Power Hour  
Monday, October 7, 2002  
9-11 am Eastern /  
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Joyce Riley & Dave Van  
Kleist  
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While recent reports reveal that Administration officials are considering whether to place Saudi Arabian interests above 9/11 victim families, a federal court motion to dismiss or delay the families' private law suits against members of the Saudi royal family of ties to Al Qaeda, other lawyers are seeking to unearth information about Saudi hijacker cockpit conversations just prior to the crash disasters on September 11.

In a letter written to Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein from Douglas L. Latta, an attorney at New York's Baumeister & Samuels firm, Latta told Hellerstein that "we have been led to believe that the United States of America, through the Department of Justice (DOJ), will attempt to prevent discovery of [9/11] black boxes." A copy of the letter was obtained from a source close to the investigation.

Latta's July 10 letter to Hellerstein also shed more light on the federal government's possible Justice Department attempts to prevent inspection of the contents of the recovered and original cockpit-voice and flight-cassette tapes "would undoubtedly lead to motion practice not present in any other cases." Moreover, analysis of news reports over time indicates a pattern of contradictions regarding the "usefulness" of the recovered data and the condition of the recovered black boxes currently impounded by the FBI.

Baumeister and Samuels represents in excess of 60 families who were killed on September 11, including families of passengers on board the hijacked aircraft as well as tower victims. Lead attorney Michel F. Baum is a 20-year aviation accident trial lawyer; and his past experience as a

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Assistant District Attorney and Assistant U.S. Attorney will und  
 the victim-family lawyer team well in the face of government pr  
 of “ongoing criminal investigation” strategies.



A source close to the National Transportation Safety Board (NT  
 asked to remain anonymous when asked about the ‘ongoing [bla  
 investigation,’ told us that “the NTSB never closely examined th  
 voice recorders (CVRs) and flight data recorders (FDRs) recove  
 American Flight 77 which hit the Pentagon, and United flight 93  
 crashed in Pennsylvania. This, while the FBI has continued to q  
 vexing questions related to its prior knowledge of the 9/11 attac  
 Bureau’s widely-reported inept and mishandled information pro  
 many lives.

The source added that “the [CVR and FDR] tapes were sequeste  
 and quickly taken to its Quantico, Virginia labs where analysis v  
 solely under the Bureau’s influence in order to maintain comple  
 However, according to the individual with knowledge of the inv  
 “there were a few NTSB officials allowed to observe, but their i  
 the probe and tape inspection was minimal at best.”

We also talked to Michael Thompson, chief engineer in the CVI  
 division of [Allied Signal-Honeywell Corporation](#) in Redmond, V  
**according** to his counsel, Mark Larson.

We asked Thompson if he was the person in charge of flight dat  
 the 9/11 investigation, since Honeywell manufactured the data r  
 operation on all four Boeing jets involved in the September 11 c  
 cannot answer that under advice from legal counsel,” he said.

Since his legal counsel, Mark Larson of Tempe, Arizona, was un  
 a conference call, Thompson told us, “On advice of my legal cou  
 answer any legal questions pertaining to that incident.” [On No  
 2002 at 12:16 pm, Honeywell transferred our initial call to Mari  
 corporate in-house counsel for Honeywell, who in turn told us to  
 Michael Thompson regarding any questions we might have abou  
 CVRs and FDRs.]

When we asked Thompson if he had ever seen or been involved

recovery analysis of the 9/11 CVRs or FDRs, he stated, “That’s question, and on advice of counsel, I cannot answer any of those You need to talk to Mark Larson about this.” [This surprised us are aware that the memory chips from which the NTSB and/or F derived is raw data and cannot be manipulated. Thus, the “ongc investigation” excuse could result in either obstruction or suppre

As a matter of fact, ABC news reported on 9-13-2001 that “Alth investigators look for an entire black box, sometimes the only p device that survive are the recorder’s crash-survivable memory 1 The CSMU is almost indestructible.[A former NTSB source tol direct hit from a nuclear blast can destroy it] ABC also said tha within a stainless-steel shell that contains titanium or aluminum temperature insulation of dry silica material.”

Judge Hellerstein’s hand-written annotations on Latto’s ‘World litigation’ letter said that his “views may be presented....as amic [friend of the court], pending a later and different status.” [ Wh his clients initiate civil procedure.]

Asked about the government’s intention to impede discovery of boxes, Latto told us that “we used a Freedom of Information Ac request for the contents [tapes] from the recovered [Flight 93] bl [That Latto was unaware that both the CVR and the FDR had al recovered from the Flight 77 Pentagon crash could easily be exp there are relatively few reports confirming their availability -- at remained tight-lipped about the issue.]

“I can’t remember to which government branch we referred the hand,” Latto replied, adding “I’ll have to ask my paralegal to ch my files.”

Asked to divulge the name of the official in the 9/11 case who h believe that “the government would attempt to prevent discover original tapes, or what type of response he had received regardir request, Mr. Latto again begged off, not wishing to name names can’t remember. I’ll have to check on it.”



**Douglas A. Latto : Latto revealed that h employed a FOIA request to obtain accu original recordings of the recovered blac he declined to reveal who had led him to the government planned to suppress or o discovery. Latto’s letter to Judge Heller contains references to limits of airline lia**

**insurance and potential monetary damage exposure to both board the aircraft and ground victims.**

**No study has yet been conducted as to whether campaign contributions and visits by airline lobbyists to key legislators on Capitol Hill after the crashes played a part in the unprecedented back-door reform measures enacted just days later.**

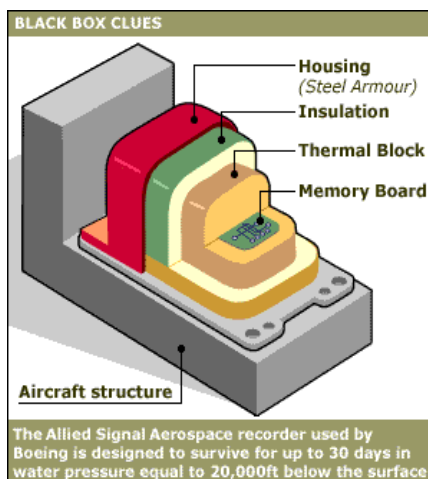
**For instead of waiting to bail out the airlines AFTER the victims had their day in court, Congress voted to place a cap on airline liability prior to private civil action adjudication. Thus, 9/11 victims are denied full, fair and complete due process -- unfettered by "nick-of-time legislation -- potentially induced in violation of U.S. Code and other statutes. However, the jury is still out regarding whether the cases will be litigated -- in light of recent attempts to absolve airport security**

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Latto added that "we always have to use motion picture to obtain evidence from black boxes, with the judge having the discretion to order various portions of the material released; however, the FBI has control over the boxes because they involve an 'ongoing criminal investigation.'

The CVR tapes contain radio transmissions and sounds in an aircraft cockpit for the last 30 minutes of its flight -- picking up engine sounds and communications with air traffic controllers, and conversations in the cockpit. The FDR picks up altitude, heading, speed and operations of the aircraft's systems. The "black-boxes," now colored bright orange in an effort to increase visibility change from earlier usage, are located in the tail of the aircraft to afford the best odds for survival in a crash.

When we asked Mr. Latto about the issue of the FBI, CIA, and other agencies withholding or suppressing evidence -- such as the black-box tapes and documents related to prior knowledge of 9/11 -- by employing the "ongoing criminal investigation" strategy -- especially involving a case where the government is withholding the evidence have the most to gain from withholding, he replied, "That's a good point. We will definitely have to consider



**Of particular interest to 9/11 far investigators is the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR). It records the flight crew as well as other sounds in the cockpit. Communications with air traffic controllers and conversations between the pilots and ground or cabin crew are also recorded. However, of more critical importance to victim family lawyers is the fact that a CVR committee consisting of 10 members from the National Transportation Safety Board, Federal Aviation Administration,**

operator of the aircraft if he survived the crash, manufacturer airplane, manufacturer of the engines, and the pilots union in a crash to listen to the recording. This committee [ not the FBI ] written transcript of the tape to be used during the investigation.

Due to the highly sensitive nature of the verbal communication in the cockpit, Congress has required that the Safety Board not rely on a CVR tape recording. Because of this sensitivity, a high level of security is provided for the CVR tape and its transcript. The timing of release of the written transcript are strictly regulated by federal law, transcripts of pertinent portions of the cockpit voice recording are released at a Safety Board public hearing on the matter. (Source: [www.NTSB.gov](http://www.NTSB.gov) )

[ Our sources, attorney interviews, and various reports in the media indicate that the FBI has assumed total control over the content of CVRs recovered from 9/11 flights 77 and 93, using “an ongoing investigation” as the reason for silence. So it can be safely assumed that few if any of the above-named groups or individuals have listened to or analyzed the original tapes from those flights.

Given our conversations with lawyers at the forefront of this case, Judge Hellerstein will undoubtedly have to wrestle with unpunished motion picture practice; and 9/11 lawyers will undoubtedly have to insure that the original tapes have not been tampered with or destroyed given the stakes involved -- political and criminal.

Victim families are just coming out of a year of intense grief and losses. This is significant because grief often turns to anger, more so against Saudi, FBI, CIA, INS, TSA and Administration shoes and drop; and the political implications of “criminal” evidence seized by the government are enormous. And when the families decide to demonstrate inside congressional offices instead of outside in front of Capitol Hill parks, they will begin to fully realize the significant collective political weight as television cameras start to find them.

One only has to consider the multiple instances of Saudi link to terrorists: State Department-issued visas to Saudi hijackers, family members laundering checks to support Saudi terrorism and Saudi hijackers living on “secure” U.S. Naval Air base as a flight instructor , and tens of millions of dollars transferred from Saudis to Al Qaeda over the last year alone according to the FBI alone the total failure of Congress to seal the country’s borders to its constituents. All this, as millions of illegal aliens and more Saudi terrorists continue to roam the USA -- hidden and unaccounted for in a broken but taxpayer-funded immigration disaster.]

Interviews with attorneys representing victim family members p inquiry and investigation via subpoena requests regarding wheth the black box tapes has been concealed, tampered with, or destru

## **BLACK BOXES NOT PROTECTED BY SENSITIVE SECURITY STATUTES**

Mary Schiavo, lead 9/11 counsel for Los Angeles-based Baum, Aristei, Guilford & Schiavo, representing some 40 victim family related to passengers on all four planes hijacked by the Saudi na that “black boxes are not mentioned in the Sensitive Security In (SSI) statutes as being protected as SSI; and they have never bee way by the courts in the past.”



**Mary F. Schiavo**

**Ms. Schiavo adds an experience legal and public face to counter government-promulgated court challenges to suppress evidence litigation against the Bush Justi Department. The LA air disast and author's 9/11 client roster i Mariani, the first victim family initiate civil action in the Septer attacks, and a pilot's young wid Sweeney. Both women have app numerous times before televisio**

**articulate their calls for truth, justice, and government acco**

Schiavo told TomFlocco.com that “we will go after the original [FDR] tapes by requesting them from the airlines and their insur turn, will have to go to the FBI through the courts to request the

“The FBI will likely attempt to comply with the court by submit transcripts,” Schiavo said, adding that “in prior legal matters of such as the TWA Flight 800 case, the judge has granted access t [memory chips] in the past, instead of transcripts.”



**Paul J. Hedlund**

**Veteran LA air disaster attorney will h about the outcome of the 9/11 World T litigation .**

Mary Schiavo's co-counsel, Paul Hedlund, a veteran air disaster mechanical engineer, told us at a September 20 hearing in Manhattan. In a typical air disaster, the NTSB pays for the reasonable expenses of the aircraft company reimbursing normal and reasonable expenses. The NTSB gives priority to the FBI regarding the VC tapes, although the aircraft company and its insurers actually own

Not leaving anything to chance, Ms. Schiavo also told us that "we will have all individuals having access to [listening / examining / analyzing] the cockpit voice and FDR tapes of Flights 93 and 77 to testify under oath as to what they heard on the tapes and how they conducted their analyses; and we will have all individuals connected to the investigation of and search for the tapes recovered from the Twin Towers crashes to testify under oath if any tapes were never found."

An attorney from another firm representing 9/11 victim-families TomFlocco.com that he will also press for discovery of the black box voice recorders and flight data recorders.

James Kreindler, lead 9/11 counsel at New York's Kreindler and Associates law firm, told us that "we will be working with other 9/11 attorneys on a discovery committee to draw up subpoena requests for black boxes but I was unaware that FBI Director Mueller had listened to the tapes from all four recovered boxes from flights 77 and 93."

The Kreindler firm has filed a civil lawsuit on behalf of over 1,400 families of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks seeking \$1 trillion in damages from Al Qaeda, Iraq and other 9/11 terrorist sponsors.



**James Kreindler**

**Kreindler represents a sizable number of the families, mostly those involving deaths in the number of airline passengers as well. He will be an important face in the coming 9/11 litigation.**

Interestingly, the Kreindler firm also includes in its roster two of the most outspoken activists among all the victim families: Regine Regenhard and Monica Gabrielle. Both have attended congressional hearings and are leaders in the Skyscraper Safety Campaign, where Regenhard and personally forced the government to hold hearings in New York

regarding tall-building safety -- even though a number of respected journalists have made an interesting case that the buildings could be blown off their foundations by terrorist-planted plastic explosives.

## **DEENA BURNETT'S BLACK BOX BATTLE**

TomFlocco.com also interviewed Michael Elsner, associate attorney at Motley's Ness - Motley firm in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, who has represented nearly all victim families in a civil action primarily against members of the Saudi royal family and other prominent Saudi businessmen involved in funding radical Muslim terrorist operations in the United States.

Motley's lead 9/11 client Deena Burnett -- whose husband Tom was on the plane four times from doomed United Flight 93 prior to becoming involved with other passengers in an attempt to take back the plane from the hijackers -- started calling the FBI on September 12, 2002, asking to listen to the transcript constructed from the cockpit voice recorder's memory chips, according to Elsner.

Elsner also told us that "Deena wrote letters to United Airlines and to FBI Director Robert Mueller, both of whom fought her attempts to have the transcript implicating other individuals who may have been involved, who were mentioned, conversations about other attacks, or whether there was any mention of steering and control problems as a possible explanation for the crash.



**Ronald Motley**

Ron Motley is a veteran trial attorney who has handled most of the recent tobacco litigation, settling some of the largest civil cases in the history of the legal profession.

We asked whether Ness - Motley's attorneys had verified through independent and expert source that the Flight 93 VCR transcript that the FBI played for the families was complete, unaltered, authentic and that they had constructed from the actual raw data on the memory chips in the cockpit of the plane. "All of the lawyers have had access to the tapes, transcriptions, or the data in the recorders," Elsner replied.

"I am sure that [when this case reaches the courtroom], any jury that hears authentic tapes directly transcribed from the VCR's [from United Flight 93 American 77]," Elsner told us, adding that "Ness - Motley will be able to independently verify that any 9/11 VCR conversations we are litigating in court are complete, unaltered and derived from the actual [memory chips]."

inside the VCRs -- those in operation in the planes that day. We do this matter on behalf of our clients to find out the truth.”

In a Flight 93 side-bar issue sure to be addressed during the new 9/11 Independent Investigation Commission’s proceedings, another report (9-13-2001) immediately following the attacks said that “officials vigorously denied initial reports [from whom?] that a missile had shot down the United Airlines [93] jet.”

Curiously -- and initially, FBI agent Bill Crowley, at the scene of the investigation, had told reporters that the Bureau “had not ruled out the possibility.” [Why not?] According to Reuters reporter David I. Saxe, Crowley later retracted the statement, saying unequivocally, “There was no military involvement in what happened here.”

[ Will 9/11 lawyers seek testimony under oath from the Air Force and their commanders, ground crew and their officers, the pilot of the un-marked plane, and missile ordinance officers? Will they request all military “after-action” reports? ]

Pennsylvania state police reported debris fields as far as eight miles from a residential area where “local media quoted residents as seeing debris falling from the sky.” But according to Reuters, “[FBI] investigators want to say whether the presence of debris in separate places evinced

Accurately in Media’s Reed Irvine wrote in the Philadelphia Daily News (9-28-2001) that the Mayor of Shanksville near the [Flight 93] crash site said that F-16 Fighters were very, very close and two men he knew could have heard a missile,” adding that “the FBI acknowledges that a fragment of one of the engines was found west of the crash site.” [hitting the ground well before the plane]

Another investigative report in the Philadelphia Daily News (9-28-2001) revealed that “a three-minute gap between the time the tape [provided to victim families last spring by the FBI] goes silent -- according to the prepared transcripts -- and the time that top scientists have pinpointed the crash.” But the American people have accepted the smoke and mirrors presentation as if it were a Rosemary Woods Presidential production.

Thus, complete and unaltered transcripts from the memory chips are the more important in determining answers regarding “bomb-on” or “military shoot-down” hypotheses -- totally un-addressed by Congress in its recent sham hearings. [But such compliance has likely not been the case for the families thus far, since attorney Mike Elsner revealed to us that the FBI has had access to the original memory chips, boxes, or FBI-transcripts.]

## TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

“It’s extremely rare that we don’t get the recorders back. I can’t think of a domestic case in which we did not recover the recorders,” said Tom Lopatkiewicz, spokesman for the NTSB. And FBI spokesman J. Valiquette said “We don’t know what was said in the cockpits, by the flight attendants or by the hijackers.” (Associated Press, 2-24-2002)

FBI Director Robert Mueller said Flight 77’s FDR provided altitude headings, and other information, but the cockpit voice recorder “had nothing useful,” and he originally declined to say what was gleaned from the recorders on Flight 93 -- before Deena Burnett started her campaign above. On September 15, 2001, Mueller told the Arizona Star that the agency had gotten no information from the voice data recorder for Flight 77.”

Mueller said the [voice] recorder from the plane that rammed into the Pentagon was so badly damaged by fire that it would not yield any useful information. But the flight data recorder [from Flight 77] was in a usable condition as was the flight data recorder from the Pennsylvania State University (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 9-21-2001)

However, in a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) report on September 20, 2001, Dick Bridges, spokesman for Arlington County, Virginia, told the Associated Press “the voice recorder was damaged on the crash, but the flight data recorder was charred in fires that broke out following the crash.” This report directly contradicts statements made by FBI Director Robert Mueller; but no one has questioned the inconsistency.

Perhaps the main reason that Director Mueller should be subpoenaed and his lawyers to testify regarding the black box issue is a troubling television appearance from his past.

Award-winning Time Magazine reporters Jonathan Beaty and Sam Donaldson [John Hancock and Gerald Loeb award for business reporting and Anderson Award for investigative reporting] detailed an interview by Mueller on a 1991 ABC Nightline Show with host Ted Koppel. The authors caught Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Robert Mueller, not realizing that he had changed his story before the television cameras.



The Outlaw Bank -- Jacket Design: Andy Carpenter, Random House, Inc  
Photo: Dennis Cook, Associated Press

In an amazing portent for the future and how Mueller might handle down-the-road [like 9/11], this troubling interview also centered critically important tapes like those surrounding the current investigation.

But 9/11 victim families are unaware that an individual known as "control" is managing the evidence needed to extract the answers to the questions. [The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride Into The Heart Of The Black Box, Beaty and Gwynne, Random House, NY, 1993, pp.118-121] Beaty and Gwynne reveal that

"A Financial Times story also raised the stakes: The financial records of the CIA and other American intelligence agencies had maintained secret accounts, and that these funds were used for payoffs of Pakistani military and intelligence leaders."

"Acting CIA Director Richard Kerr appeared before a group of congressmen and admitted for the first time that BCCI did in fact hold CIA accounts. In response to questions, Kerr asserted that these were normal accounts....After the investigation, the Agency had found what it thought was a graceful, quiet way of dealing with the situation."

"The day after it appeared [CIA's BCCI slush funds charges in the Financial Times] General Richard Thornburgh dispatched the head of his criminal division, General Robert Mueller, to ABC's Nightline show, with Ted Koppel's questions and charges. It would prove a tactical mistake."

"Koppel invited Beaty, Gwynne, Jack Blum, and Senator John Warner on the show....Mueller, Kerr and Beaty sat in the same studio in Washington. Mueller insisted that the Justice Department had won the case and had not proceeded vigorously with the investigations, and he ignored Senator Kerry's attempt to bring up the tapes of Blum's interviews with the former BCCI bankers who testified that

and BCCI's secret ownership of First American Bank.”

“When Koppel tried to point out that the assistant attorney general answered the senator's question about the missing tapes, Mueller too....Kerry was beginning to sputter, and Beaty, outraged enough by deceptive tactics to forget that he was on national television, jumped in.

" 'But Mr. Mueller -- I'm sorry, but the senator is quite accurate. He has provided the reason for shutting down the bank by convicting the bank of money laundering, but then a very high-level person in your own department came around and asked the State of Florida to keep this bank open, despite the fact that your own prosecutors had testified that drug-money laundering was the policy of the bank and that it wasn't a matter of employees taking independent action. When you plea-bargained out, you let the bank go. You took the low-level employees, which is kind of in reverse.' "

“Mueller came back strongly. 'I adamantly disagree with that accusation, Mr. Mueller,' Beaty cut back in, 'We haven't made the accusation that the tapes had been shaped by the intelligence community. All we have tried to do is point out the rather stunning lack of curiosity and aggression of the people in the Justice Department.' ”

" 'And I can cite you, sir, numerous occasions when witnesses have been brought forward and been ignored by you. The very tapes that Senator Kerry referred to, of witnesses talking about the link between First American Bank and BCCI and of payments to American officials, disappeared. [The tapes] had been listened to by U.S. attorneys from your own office.' "

" 'Mr. Beaty, the tapes have not disappeared,' Mueller replied.

" 'Two months ago you denied to Mr. [NY District Attorney J. Edgar] Morganthau and his department that those tapes even existed!' I jumped back.”

“Mueller's last statement to him was awesome in its implications. It had not brought either information or sources to the Justice Department. Morganthau, yes. To Justice, no. It could only mean, it seemed, that the tapes had passed on his notes of his interview with Sami Masri to Mueller. Justice.”

The portions above are quoted directly from the transcripts of the interviews with N. Beaty and Gwynne's book. But the implications for current 9/11 are self-instructive.

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According to a Reuters report (11-27-2001), “the Justice Department and the FBI have so far declined to release even an *edited* transcript of the cockpit voice recorder, saying that it is evidence in a criminal in

indicating early-on the extreme reticence of the government to have full access to complete and authentic transcripts compiled from memory chip data as to what was said in the cockpit.

Gail Dunham, president of Washington, DC-based advocacy group National Air Disaster Alliance/Foundation, said “tapes from earlier had been released upon court order, or after prosecutors concluded no information in them crucial to build a criminal case.” (Reuters 2001) It would seem that such a time period has long passed.

The fact that the London-headquartered Reuters News Service is in forefront of much of the 9/11 black-box investigation should of something about corporate control of U.S. media, for Reuters agreed (12-21-2001) that “FBI Director Robert Mueller has personally reviewed recording from the hijacked (Flight 93) and advised that the FBI releasing the tape at this time.

Curiously, a report only found in the New Delhi Indian Express revealed that “people involved in air traffic control said the FBI traffic tapes of the conversations with that airplane [Flight 93], and transcript was made available of air-to-ground communications. Thus, lawyers may also need to hear the original recordings between traffic controllers and the cockpit.

## WIDOW ON THE WARPATH

Mariani vs. United Airlines, et. al., brought by Schiavo and Hed of Mariani’s husband Neil, who was killed when his United 175 into the South Tower of the World Trade Center, is the collective name for the current World Trade Center litigation being conducted in Hellerstein’s Lower District of Manhattan courtroom.

Mrs. Mariani told us that she is concerned that the government tampered with evidence in her case, as the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) had [through lawyers in the Ashcroft Justice Department] contacted her witnesses and diverted evidence subject to previous attorney without a court order -- and prior to the judge government inclusion in her private civil action. “9/11 Judge Orders Consolidation But Ignores DOJ Evidence Tampering”



Ellen and Neil Mariani -- Neil Mariani obtain a ticket on Ellen’s plane as their daughter’s wedding in California purchased a ticket on United flight 1 hijacked by Saudi nationals living a supposedly secure Pensacola Naval Florida where the terrorists registered and residences -- but also where a mysteriously-deceased Saudi military

instructor lived. **“Come Fly With Me”**  
Mariani attends every hearing -- sitting next to her attorneys and staring at Judge Hellerstein.

So intent upon holding United Airlines and the government accountable for her husband's death, Mrs. Mariani abruptly fired her original attorney in Chicago's well-known airline disaster specialist Donald Nolan, aggressive enough in allowing her case to drag on since December that it was delayed for some unknown reason well into the summer.

### **“DOJ Loses Evidence Control Attempt”**

“I was not pleased that my previous attorney -- within a few weeks -- had hired him to represent my interests, not the government's -- had me in the Victim Compensation Fund Special Master Kenneth Fineberg to dropping my lawsuit and bringing me into the victim fund after a world I wanted no part of that fund,” said Mariani during a phone interview yesterday.

Highly displeased that airport gate security was so poor after she learned that the State Department had been violating existing federal law by issuing U.S. visas to Saudi terrorists, Mariani said “while our country was under attack and people were dying, highly-paid airline lobbyists were in every congressional office to office, lining up votes for an Airline “State Security” Bill that would set limits on compensation in private jury trials in the event of an atrocious negligence and incompetence.”

Mariani had continually referred to the Compensation Fund as the “Come Fly With Me and go-away Fund,” adding that “without my day in court, I'll never know the truth and who did this to my husband -- let alone get justice and accountability.”

Never one to mince her words, Mrs. Mariani told us “I want to know if Governor Jeb Bush and the FBI were doing as they flew off from the military cargo plane with the terrorists' airport flight-lesson recording evidence connecting the Saudi hijackers to the events that killed my husband and hundreds of others. I want answers.”

### **“Come Fly With Me?”**

“And what were [Intelligence Committee Chairmen] Senator Granger and Congressmen Goss doing having breakfast together the morning after the 9/11 attacks with the Pakistani Intelligence leader who was writing checks to the hijackers' living expenses in the United States?,” said the irrepressible Mrs. Mariani. “It was even reported that Secretary of State Powell and FBI Director Tenet also met with the terrorist sponsor,” she added.

### **“Secret Hearings Conceal 9/11 Terrorist Link”**

## Congress and White House

“The government may have just played the voters for a bunch of not me,” Mariani said, promising she would “never give up, give out.”

*“We live in a dirty and dangerous world. The things the general public does not need to know, should not. I believe that democracy flourishes government can take legitimate steps to keep it and when the press can decide whether to print knows.” (Katherine Graham, owner -- The Washington Post, speech to CIA, 1988)*

**Michael Thomas contributed additional research and reporting for**

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