

BEASLEY ALLEN REPRESENTING NEIGHBORS IN SUIT OVER FLORIDA 'TILTED HOUSE'

Two Florida homeowners have filed a lawsuit against their neighbors after their properties were severely damaged by a collapsing "tilted" house following a weather event.

Mobile, AL (April 9, 2024) - Beasley Allen is representing two Florida property owners after their homes were damaged and continue to suffer damage caused by their neighbor's "tilted" property.

The suit filed on behalf of William B. Lawrence III and Gene P. Stienecker is against James Sturgeon and Yik Chun Wu, the co-owners of a three-story home located at 5101 Gulf Drive D in Panama City (the Sturgeon-Wu Property).

This lawsuit stems from events beginning on January 9, 2024, when a weather event, including tornadoes, struck the Florida panhandle, during which the Sturgeon-Wu Property fell. This property collapsed into the neighboring homes of the plaintiffs, causing various issues, such as cracks in their walls, foundation damage and other structural problems.

This property has been referred to as "The Tilted House" in several news reports and social media posts.

Photographic evidence, taken after the most recent collapse, showcases the continuing progression of damage and the direct impact on the plaintiffs' properties. The Bay County Building Department has declared all involved properties uninhabitable due to the ongoing risk posed by the unstable structure.

Despite efforts to resolve the situation, including Bay County's issuance and re-issuance of a demolition permit, the process has been stalled. The defendants have demanded that the plaintiffs waive all liability related to the demolition work, a condition the plaintiffs find unacceptable. As a result, the damaged structure remains a hazard and a nuisance, compounding the stress and risk to the plaintiffs.

This is not the first instance of collapse, as the Sturgeon-Wu Property previously caused damage in 2018 when Hurricane Michael made landfall. At that time, plaintiffs' properties were damaged because of the falling Sturgeon-Wu Property.

"Our clients have suffered significant damage to their properties due to the defendants' negligence and failure to address the unstable and hazardous condition of their property," Beasley Allen Attorney Rebecca Gilliland said. "They deserve a resolution that prioritizes their safety and restores their properties to their pre-loss condition. We will pursue all available legal remedies to ensure our clients receive the compensation and relief they are entitled to."

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The lawsuit seeks a resolution prioritizing safety and the restoration of the plaintiffs' properties. It urges the defendants to proceed with the demolition without imposing unreasonable conditions that delay recovery and resolution. The plaintiffs are also asking for compensation due to the defendants' failure to address the significant and ongoing damage and encroachment caused by their property onto the plaintiffs' homes.

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