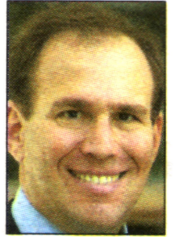




"My clients wanted publicity - and we got it," Schlesinger said in a recent interview. "This is the most publicity I've ever gotten on a case."

The Topps recall - the second-largest beef recall in U.S. history - raised questions about whether the U.S. Department of Agriculture should have acted faster. USDA officials said recently they would speed warnings in the future.

The recall was first announced Sept. 25, but the USDA knew the hamburger was contaminated from tests as early as Sept. 7. New Jersey-based Topps first recalled 331,000 pounds of hamburger, but expanded that to include 21.7 million pounds and has since closed its doors.



Schlesinger

More than 30 people eventually fell ill.

Schlesinger filed suit against Wal-Mart in Broward County Circuit Court, seeking unspecified damages of more than \$15,000. He said he has considered suing Topps, as well. A class action suit has been filed in Georgia, but Schlesinger said Safranek was probably the worst case, in terms of illness, and her family will probably pursue their suit separately.

Wal-Mart said when the suit was filed that it pulled the hamburger patties from the shelves on Aug. 30 after a single customer complaint in "an abundance of caution." Spokesman **Kory Lundburg** said he was unsure whether the Safraneks filed the customer complaint.

According to the lawsuit, Safranek has been diagnosed with hemolytic uremic syndrome and sustained permanent kidney damage. She is the daughter of **Anna Safranek** and **David Safranek**.

Schlesinger is the son of firm founder **Sheldon J. Schlesinger**.

PAUL BRINKMANN

LAWYER GOES PUBLIC OVER BAD BURGERS

The Schlesinger Law Firm in Fort Lauderdale is no stranger to media attention for big injury damage lawsuits. But the national spotlight glared brightly on attorney **Scott P. Schlesinger** recently for a lawsuit about bad burgers sold at **Wal-Mart**.

Fort Lauderdale teen **Samantha Safranek** was severely sickened by e. coli bacteria on Aug. 17. She had eaten a **Topps** brand hamburger her mother bought at **Wal-Mart** in Pembroke Pines.

Tests showed the hamburgers were contaminated with a strain of e. coli that can cause kidney damage and death. After more people got sick in New York and Topps was forced into a recall, the story was in all major national outlets, including **CNN**, **CBS Evening News** and the **Associated Press**.



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