

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
633 WEST FIFTH STREET, SUITE 4900
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071
PHONE: (213) 576-5000
FAX: (213) 680-4470
WWW.GORDONREES.COM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 13, 2009**

Contact: Miles D. Scully
Gordon & Rees LLP
(619) 696-6700
mscully@gordonrees.com

**JUDGE GRANTS CLASS CERTIFICATION IN MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR
LAWSUIT AGAINST UPS**

***Plaintiffs' Allege Pressure Tactics and Deceptive Practices at the World's Largest Package
Delivery Company***

LOS ANGELES—A California judge has paved the way for a coalition of Mail Boxes Etc. franchisee's to proceed as a class in their ongoing, multi-million dollar lawsuit against UPS.

In a stunning defeat for UPS, Judge William F. Highberger of the California Superior Court, Los Angeles, certified a class of more than 3,500 Mail Boxes Etc. franchisee's in a ruling dated June 19.

The decision in *Morgate LLC v. Mail Boxes Etc., Inc.* marks a critical turning point in an ongoing David versus Goliath battle that has pitted a resilient group of Mail Boxes Etc. franchisee's against the world's largest package delivery company.

The franchisee's coalesced in 2003 under the banner of The Platinum Shield Association to fight what they saw as heavy-handed tactics by UPS, which took over Mail Boxes Etc. in 2001.

They contend in court papers that UPS has engaged in an unlawful campaign to systematically destroy the Mail Boxes Etc. franchise system through a program called "Gold Shield," which they allege is nothing more than a thinly disguised effort by UPS to transform Mail Boxes Etc. franchises into "UPS Stores." They allege that UPS made false representations and violated California laws prohibiting unfair and deceptive business practices.

"Judge Highberger's decision vindicates the efforts of thousands of Mail Boxes Etc. franchisee's who have banded together to battle UPS," said Miles Scully, a Partner with Gordon & Rees LLP

July 13, 2009

Page 2

and lead counsel for The Platinum Shield Association. “We hope that UPS will recognize the terrible impact its self-serving business decisions have had on franchisees and remedy the issue voluntarily, but if necessary we will force the issue through this class action.”

Before its acquisition by UPS, Mail boxes Etc. was the largest and most successful non-food franchise in the United States. The company rented mailboxes and offered shipping services to consumers and commercial clients at locations throughout the United States.

When UPS purchased Mail Boxes Etc. in 2001, there were approximately 3,000 stores operating under the Mail Boxes Etc. banner. The franchisee’s charge in their complaint that since the rollout of the “Gold Shield” program, UPS has bullied over ninety-percent of Mail Boxes Etc. franchisees into becoming “UPS Stores.”

Mail Boxes Etc. franchisee’s who have converted their operations to UPS Stores have seen their profits dwindle and their customer base evaporate, according to court papers.

A trial on several of the claims against UPS is scheduled for August 3 in the Los Angeles Superior Court.

About Gordon & Rees LLP

Headquartered in San Francisco, Gordon & Rees LLP is a full-service law firm with more than 350 attorneys in sixteen offices throughout the United States.

About The Platinum Shield Association

Founded by a group of Mail Boxes Etc. franchisee’s who opposed UPS, The Platinum Shield Association is based in Malibu, California. For more information on the group and copies of documents filed in the case, please visit www.platinumshieldassociation.com.

###