

INSURANCE FRAUD HALL OF FAME - Enter the Malice Palace

Jeffrey Alnutt

A tenant died when cash-poor landlord Jeffrey Alnutt burned down his apartment building to steal more than \$300,000 in insurance money. The Johnstown, NY man's second-floor tenant Debra Morris died when she dashed back into the flaming building to rescue her cat.

Investigators identified four spots where gasoline was found in the ruins; a staircase, an enclosed porch, the living room and kitchen. A red gasoline can was found melted to the floor.

Alnutt had plenty of motives. His finances plummeted when several of his businesses declined because he spent too much time with his girlfriend, his ex-wife testified during the trial. Hard-up for money, he couldn't cover the mortgages on several buildings he owned.

The court sentenced Alnutt to 25 years to life for murder. He's already serving 15 years for burning down his house for nearly \$200,000 in fraudulent insurance claims.

Francis Fredette

The Rutland, VT man broke his back when he tumbled off the roof of a gas station he was burglarizing. Still scheming despite his painful injury, Fredette had his crony drive him to Fredette's apartment building and dump him on the front steps.

Fredette then shook down his innocent landlords and insurer, lying that he slipped on the landlord's supposedly unsafe steps. Fredette made \$700,000 on the deal. The landlords gave up their life savings of \$150,000 to pay Fredette the balance.

The landlords had counted on that money for retirement. Things got sticky when Fredette's crony had a fit of conscience and turned him in. Fredette received 46 months in jail. But he's already spent the stolen money and was broke, thus forcing his hapless crony to repay the landlords and the insurer.

Kelly Klein

The Seattle, WA-area woman may have the unluckiest family in the U.S. They kept getting badly hurt – or so Klein claimed. Klein filed more than \$200,000 in fake injury claims. The money involved 96 claims involving family members in less than three years – covering a long list of improbable and phantom accidents.

Klein's husband, for instance, supposedly lost his foot after it was crushed by a tractor and required a medical helicopter evacuation to the hospital for amputation. To enhance the seeming realism, Klein even filed a claim for a prosthetic foot.

In addition, her teenage son was seriously burned in a fireworks explosion, needing days of treatment at a burn center, Klein insisted.

Her teenage daughter broke her femur in a car wreck that also forced her husband into a wheelchair.

The maladies went on.

Klein submitted forged receipts, medical records and police accident reports to support her fraudulent claims.

However, insurer background checks with doctor offices and hospitals showed that Klein's family members had never been patients there, or at least not for the claimed treatments. Despite it all, Klein received only a year in jail, with most of the sentence suspended. She also was forced to repay most of the stolen insurance money.

Pierre Lamont Taylor

Going to body-mangling extremes, swindlers sometimes mutilate themselves for insurance money. Figuring he could make a living without actually working, Pierre Lamont Taylor had his cousin shoot him in the leg to fake a robbery and steal workers' compensation money.

Taylor worked for UPS and lied that he was wounded during a job-related robbery in the Washington, DC area. Sporting a fresh bullet hole in his right leg, Taylor made a workers' comp claim with Liberty Mutual, which paid out a lump sum of \$250,000 as UPS' insurer.

Taylor shared some of his insurance windfall with his crony as payment for the shooting. The dishonest duo got the idea for the shooting after watching a television show involving a similar plot. A former friend of Taylor told authorities about the scheme, and Taylor ultimately confessed.

Taylor and his cousin each received five years in prison (suspended) in a scheme that the cousin's sentencing judge called "one of the dumbest things" he's ever seen.



"JERSEY SHORE" TEAM IN LEGAL SITUATION



Victims of a "Jersey Shore" beat down are seeking revenge by filing a lawsuit against the reality television show's producers, alleging the show profited from the fights that cast members provided.

The lawsuit filed in New Jersey Superior court against the MTV show "Jersey Shore" reportedly argues that the show's producer, 495 Productions Inc., engaged in a "criminal enterprise" when they profited from showing fights provoked by cast member Ronnie Magro.

Judge Joseph L. Foster recently denied a motion to dismiss the suit that alleges the defendants' conduct violated New Jersey's racketeering statute, according to the Associated Press.

The suit, filed in March, asserts that Italian beefcake Mr. Magro picked fights with Stephen Izzo Jr. and Joshua Thomas. Mr. Thomas told the Asbury Park Press that he was fired from his job at the Monmouth Beach, NJ police department after the fight between Mr. Magro and him aired.

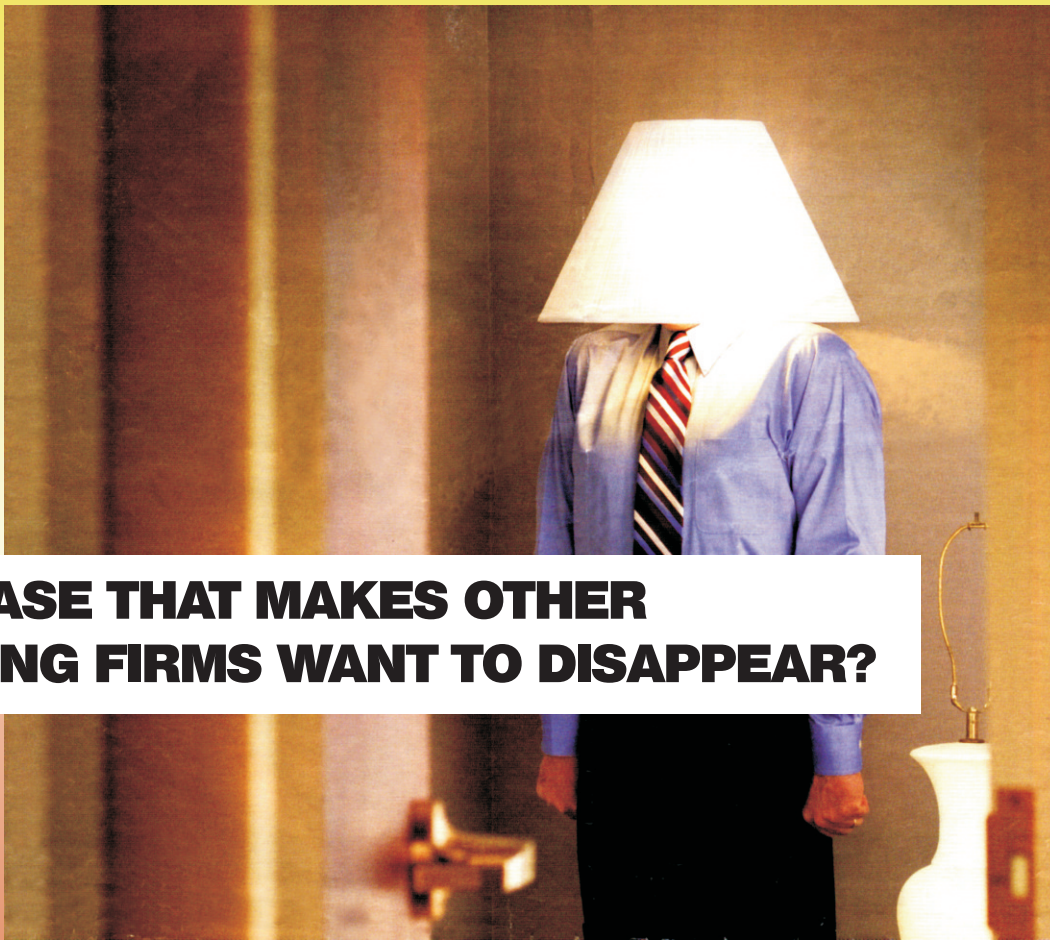
The complaint seeks unspecified monetary damages. A request for comment from MTV was not returned.

"Jersey Shore" chronicles the exploits of "eight young adults as they move into a summer home to indulge in everything Seaside Heights, NJ," according to MTV. The second season of the show is scheduled to air this summer.

Comedy Corner



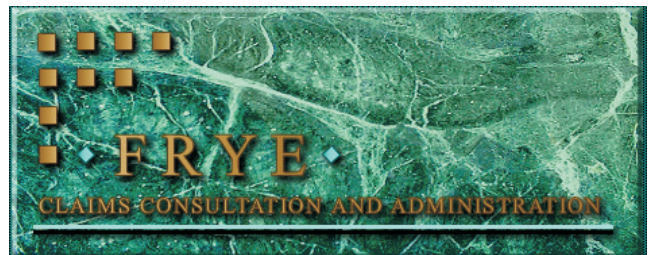
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