

Board of Directors

March 11, 2014

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Via Email: kimberly.goff-crews@yale.edu

Freddi Segal – Gidan
Secretary

Dear Vice-President Goff-Crews:

Ellen Tunkelrott
Treasurer

I am the President, CEO and Co-Founder of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), the largest independent organization of asbestos victims in the United States. My late husband, Alan, succumbed to mesothelioma in 2006 and our organization arose from the ordeal that we suffered during his struggle with this preventable asbestos caused-disease. Exacerbated by the fact that asbestos has been known to cause disease for more than a century, asbestos victims are unforgiving with convicted asbestos criminals, such as Stephan Schmidheiny.

National Spokesperson

Jordan Zevon

I, and other members of the national and international asbestos victims community, have been closely following the news about Associazione Familiari Vittime Amianto's petition to Yale University and Yale's award of an honorary degree Mr. Schmidheiny and have grave concerns.

Science Advisory Board

Arthur L. Frank, MD,
PhD
Co-Chair

On February 13, 2012, I joined AFEVA in Turin, Italy, when both defendants, Stephan Schmidheiny and Baron Luis de Cartier, were found guilty, sentenced to 16 years in prison, and fined for interim damages by an Italian criminal court for willful failure to warn and protect the workers, their families, and residents living nearby from the dangers of asbestos. This case represented the first time that executive-owners of a company that manufactured and produced asbestos were convicted of creating an environmental disaster following more than a century of scientific evidence that asbestos exposure is deadly.

Richard Lemen, PhD,
MSPH
Co-Chair

While the tragedy in Italy was unfolding throughout the 1970s and 1980s under Mr. Schmidheiny's stewardship, his company continued to operate asbestos factories in Apartheid-era South Africa that exploited disenfranchised black labor (see Maria Roselli's German-language book, *Die Asbestlüge*), which was only divested after the end of Apartheid. In spite of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) declaring asbestos a "group 1" carcinogen during that time, he willfully ignored the published scientific literature and continued to operate asbestos factories in Lebanon, Brazil and elsewhere. The Lebanese factory was eventually sold to Lebanese businessmen and remains a significant source of asbestos pollution and cause of malignant mesothelioma in north Lebanon to this day. The asbestos mine that he owned in Brazil is still operating today after Schmidheiny sold his Brazilian operation in the late 1980s or early 1990s for full market value. And his company's leading lobbying role in Germany and Switzerland in the 1970s and 1980s has been credited with stalling those countries' asbestos bans for many years. In Italy, the appeals court said Eternit's cover-up delayed the country's asbestos ban by a decade.

Dr. Brad Black

Dr. Barry Castleman

Dr. Raja Flores

Dr. Michael Harbut

Dr. Hedy Kindler

Dr. Christine Oliver

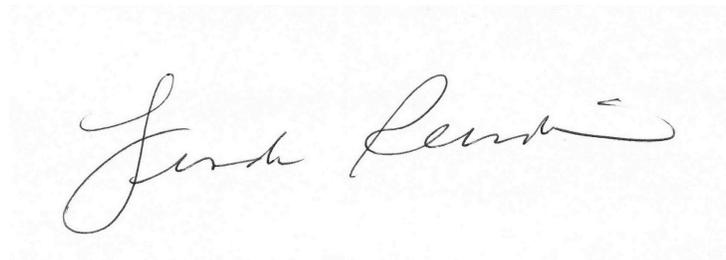
While Schmidheiny's asbestos operations continued throughout the 1970s and 1980s, criminal prosecutions of Eternit managers had already begun to result in convictions in Naples, Italy by 1983, with added convictions in Casale Monferrato in 1993. Schmidheiny retained a high-powered Swiss/Italian public relations firm, Bellodi, for many years starting in 1984, to protect the Swiss parent corporation and "Level 5" (himself) from criminal prosecution and liability. All of this was occurring *before* Yale awarded him the honorary degree in 1996. These are not the actions of an innocent man deserving of Yale University's highest praise. I cannot imagine that Yale would honor Schmidheiny today, knowing what we know now about his history.

All of us, and Yale University in particular, owe it to the victims of these horrific diseases, and especially to Eternit's victims in Italy, Apartheid-era South Africa, Brazil, Lebanon, Switzerland and Germany, to make sure that these historic wrongs are given due consideration, and to ensure that one of the most prestigious universities in the world is not an unwitting accomplice in Schmidheiny's ongoing public relations campaign to distance himself from his catastrophic legacy. Please consider Yale's Professor Thomas Pogge's recommendation to assemble an impartial committee of faculty experts to review all the issues raised by Schmidheiny's award. For us, the asbestos victims, the inaction of Yale to review the new information is scandalous.

We plan to present the latest findings and discuss the international social movement to rescind Yale's honorary degree to Schmidheiny with our colleagues, lawmakers, and supporters at the 10th Annual International Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization Conference in Washington, D.C. on April 5, 2014.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said "The time is always right to do what is right." In the names of those we have buried, I urge you to listen to our plea and revoke Schmidheiny's honorary award.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Reinstein", is centered on the page. The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Linda Reinstein
President/CEO and Co-Founder
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cc: President Peter Salovey – Yale University
Christopher Meisenkothen, Esq. – Counsel for AFEVA