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Dr. Charles Bates to speak on asbestos litigation reform legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 6, 2006—Dr. Charles Bates, President and Senior Partner of Bates White, who presented testimony in November 2005 before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary regarding the projections of future asbestos claims and the viability of a proposed asbestos compensation fund, will participate in Mealey’s Asbestos Legislation Teleconference on Tuesday, February 7 to discuss the current status of the proposed legislation.

Dr. Bates will show that there is a substantial financial shortfall with the proposed legislation and will quantify the magnitude of this shortfall. Specifically, the financial shortfall results primarily from: (1) entitlements created for many individuals with lung and other cancers who were not compensated in the historical tort environment; and (2) dormant claimants who would be able to recoup additional recoveries because they have settled with most, but not all defendants. This shortfall means the Fund would be bankrupted and forced to sunset two to three years after its enactment.

The Mealey’s event, “Asbestos Legislation Teleconference: Will Congress Solve the Asbestos Litigation Crisis?” features five different speakers who will provide expert legal and economic insight on the proposed \$140 billion industry-financed trust fund that would replace the current tort system as the source of compensation for people injured by asbestos exposure. Attendees of the teleconference will hear how the proposed federal legislation would affect asbestos companies in litigation; the status of the FAIR Act on Capitol Hill; is there enough money in the trust fund; and what it all means to plaintiffs, defendants, businesses, and insurers.

[Click here to learn more about the teleconference.](#)

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About Bates White

Bates White is a national economic consulting firm of more than 120 professionals. Established in 1999, Bates White offers consulting services in economics, finance, and business analytics. Bates White has offices in Washington, D.C., and San Diego, Calif. For detailed information about Bates White, visit www.bateswhite.com.

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