



## NEWS RELEASE

**JE Berkowitz, LP**  
**One Gateway Boulevard**  
**Pedricktown, NJ 08067**

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*For Immediate Release*

### AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

It took a team of highly trained professionals in the glass industry to get The Statue of Liberty up and running for its scheduled July 4<sup>th</sup> opening ceremony. JE Berkowitz, Kalimex, Inc. (general contractor) and SRS (handrail fabricator and installer) worked around the clock to enhance the overall safety for visitors and re-open the crown for the first time since September 11, 2001!



In order to bring Lady Liberty up to fire regulation codes and safe for visitation, many enhancements to the existing structure were necessary. JE Berkowitz and SRS re-engineered the existing glass in the crown for structural soundness. This required adding railings and safety glass to the helical staircase from the top of the pedestal to the crown.



JEB fabricated several new 13/16" laminated glass lites, consisting of 3/8" clear tempered - .060 Clear PVB – 3/8" clear tempered with 1-1/4" holes for installation. Designed to meet small missile requirements, the glass type was chosen for its resiliency and safety features. Beautiful 316L alloy (marine grade) stainless steel handrails and custom brackets were designed and installed by SRS. The glass lites were mounted vertically behind the handrails, and held by metal clamps, to serve as fall through protection. The glass was fabricated with sophisticated polished edges, holes and shapes, all provided to JEB in CAD drawings. A challenge in creating the CAD drawings was the inherent movement of the structure. It made the use of a laser impossible. Each shape had to be laid out by hand and then converted to CAD.

This was not the first time JEB provided glass for the statue. In 2004, they fabricated a complete glass handrail system. For this phase of the project, JE Berkowitz worked in close





coordination again with SRS and general contractor Kalimex, Inc. out of Ocean View, NJ. This involved meeting extremely condensed timelines, coordinating limited access and off-hour schedules, Saturday 6AM freight delivery by ferry to Ellis Island and rapid turnaround of samples and product. Partner, Rich Blatman, who joined SRS in 2004, explained that the Statue of Liberty job had many obstacles. The project required using only American made products. "This meant even going as far as getting the screws and other hardware custom made because what was required was not made in the USA anymore," noted Rich. Also, the glass had to be hand carried from the 5<sup>th</sup> level to the 7<sup>th</sup> level and then up a 20" helical staircase to the crown for installation.

"All of the suppliers, which had to be USA based, performed above and beyond expectations, including JEB, the supplier of custom laminated glass. The quality was exceptional and the delivery time, based on short cycles, made the job work for all parties," commented Rich. The project was completed and delivered to the work site in 5 working days, on-time and on-schedule, with the quality and precision that JEB and SRS strive to deliver.

"It is a rare opportunity that JEB has the chance to be part of a historic event like this. We are proud and honored to be involved," says Arthur Berkowitz, President.

### **About SRS**

SRS, Inc., located in Metuchen, New Jersey, is a high-end architectural metals company, specializing in stainless steel and bronze for application in curved stairs and railings. Started in 1965, they primarily service the New York and Metropolitan markets.

### **About JEB**

JE Berkowitz, LP (est. 1920) is a leading architectural glass fabricator. Its products include Tempered Glass, Insulating Glass, Spandrel Glass, Silk Screened Glass, Glass Doors and Entrances, Laminated Glass, and Point-Supported Canopy and Wall Systems for the domestic and overseas architectural markets. The family-owned glass business is located in Pedricktown, N.J., with over 200,000 square feet of plant space and 200 employees.