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City Attorney Sues Opioid Manufacturers

Lawsuit: Companies that created health crisis must pay for damage they caused

San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott today announced a lawsuit against Purdue Pharma L.P., members of the Sackler family, and other manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids who created and are profiting from the opioid health crisis in San Diego and the rest of the nation.

The federal lawsuit seeks to compel the companies to fund drug treatment and education programs in San Diego, return unlawful profits, and recover the costs associated with the City's response to the opioid crisis, including the costs of paramedic services, police calls, and homelessness. It is expected to become part of a Multi-District Litigation involving hundreds of other cities, counties, and states.

As part of what is a two-pronged attack, the City Attorney's Office will prosecute the defendants civilly for creating a public nuisance and violating the state Unfair Competition Law through deceptive trade practices. This civil prosecution was filed by the City Attorney's Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit on behalf of the People of the State of California.

Simultaneously, the Office claims that the defendants created a public nuisance and violated the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or the RICO Act, through acts performed as part of an ongoing conspiracy.

“Opioid manufacturers have profited handsomely from the human suffering they intentionally inflicted through manipulation and deceit,” City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **“While San Diego will long deal with the destructive consequences of their greed, we intend to hold them accountable for funding drug treatment and education programs that will protect the health and safety of San Diegans.”**

Defendants includes not only Purdue Pharma L.P. but also individuals in the Sackler family who have pulled billions of dollars out of Purdue Pharm over the past decades, benefitting from the ongoing fraud and deception. The last three entities on this list are distributors, all others are manufacturers.

Here is the full list of defendants:

Purdue Pharma L.P.
Richard S. Sackler
Jonathan D. Sackler
Mortimer D.A. Sackler
Kathe A. Sackler
Ilene Sackler Lefcourt

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Beverly Sackler
Theresa Sackler
David A. Sackler
Trust for the Benefit of Members of the Raymond Sackler Family
Rhodes Pharmaceuticals L.P.
Cephalon, Inc.
Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.
Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.
Endo International PLC
Endo Health Solutions Inc.
Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Insys Therapeutics, Inc.
Mallinckrodt PLC
Mallinckrodt LLC
Allergan PLC fka Actavis PLC
Watson Pharmaceuticals, Inc. nka Actavis, Inc.
Watson Laboratories, Inc.
Actavis LLLC
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AmerisourceBergen Corporation
Cardinal Health, Inc.
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