



PRESS RELEASE

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FARMINGTON - Davis County has filed a lawsuit against some of the nation's leading pharmaceutical companies over the aggressive marketing and negligent distribution of prescription opioid painkillers and the resulting surge in overdose and fatality rates that continue to ravage local communities.

The lawsuit follows the County's decision to pursue litigation against a long list of companies, including Purdue Pharma, the maker of the synthetic opioid OxyContin. According to the Utah Department of Health, deaths from oxycodone-containing drugs like OxyContin accounted for 55 percent of all prescription opioid deaths in 2015.

The complaint, filed in Davis County Second Judicial District Court, seeks relief including statutory and actual damages for costs incurred as a result of the opioid crisis. Such damages include increased costs of County-funded opioid treatment and prevention programs, first responder and emergency services, and law enforcement.

"Opioid deaths in Davis County are growing at an alarming rate. This is a public health crisis affecting the whole community. The impact that opioids are having on Davis County cannot be ignored," said Davis County Attorney Troy Rawlings. "We must act in the public interest and hold accountable those who have been complicit in the creation of this epidemic."

Defendants in the Davis County lawsuit include: Purdue Pharma L.P.; Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd.; Cephalon, Inc.; Allergan plc; Watson Laboratories, Inc.; Actavis LLC; Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Johnson & Johnson; Noramco, Inc.; Depomed, Inc.; Endo Health Solutions Inc.; AbbVie Inc.; Knoll Pharmaceutical Company; Mallickrodt plc; Mylan, Inc.; Lipocine, Inc.; Spriaso LLC; McKesson Corporation; Cardinal Health, Inc.; AmerisourceBergen Corporation; Russell Portenoy; Perry Fine; Scott Fishman; and other related subsidiary and affiliate corporations.

With approximately 342,000 residents, Davis County's is the 3rd most populated county in Utah and its 15 communities are grappling with an ever-growing opioid epidemic. The detrimental effects of opioid addiction can be seen across every socioeconomic group and demographic in the County.

The County has dedicated significant resources to address the epidemic, causing it to divert funding from other needed programs in order to pay for the substantial economic, administrative and social costs related to opioid addiction and abuse.

Davis County is represented by Durham Jones & Pinegar P.C. and Phipps Deacon Purnell PLLC, two law firms experienced in successfully litigating complex consumer protection and mass tort actions.