

These complaints are part of a continuing effort by contingency fee counsel to single out Purdue, blame it for the entire opioid crisis in the United States, and try these cases in the court of public opinion rather than the justice system.

Such serious allegations demand clear evidence linking the conduct alleged to the harm described, but the state fails to show such causation and offers little evidence to support its sweeping legal claims.

Instead, the plaintiffs are seeking to publicly vilify Purdue, its executives, employees and former directors while unfairly undermining the important work we have taken to address the opioid crisis. The complaint is riddled with inaccurate allegations. Absent from the complaint is any acknowledgement of the fact that most opioid overdoses now result from heroin and illicit fentanyl. In fact, rates of overdoses from illegal fentanyl have skyrocketed.

Purdue's opioid pain medicines represent less than 2% of total opioid prescriptions. They are approved by FDA, prescribed by doctors, and dispensed by pharmacists. These complaints disregard basic facts about Purdue's prescription opioid medications including that:

- FDA, the scientific agency charged with approving and regulating medicines in the U.S., has approved OxyContin and other Purdue opioid medications as safe and effective for their intended use;*
- Prescription opioids are among the most tightly controlled medicines in the United States, and Purdue's OxyContin is a Schedule II controlled substance, meaning that it is in a class of medicines with the highest level of control by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA);*
- The first information that healthcare providers see when reading the FDA-approved label for OxyContin is a prominent "black box" warning that includes information about the risks of addiction, abuse, and overdose; and*
- Purdue promoted its opioid medications based on the medical and scientific evidence in the FDA approved label and did so to licensed physicians who have the training and responsibility to ensure that medications are properly prescribed.*

The complaints also omits key facts about the federal regulation of opioid medications, including:

- In April 2010, FDA approved a reformulated version OxyContin, which Purdue developed with properties intended to deter abuse. Purdue worked for over a decade to develop the new formulation, investing hundreds of millions of dollars, and it was the first opioid FDA approved with abuse deterrent properties.*
- FDA has directly addressed many of the scientific issues complained of in the state's complaint and has continued to determine that Purdue's opioids are safe and effective for their intended use.*
- In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a new guideline for prescribing opioids for chronic pain ([CDC Guidelines \[na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](#)). Purdue immediately emailed the guidelines to over 150,000 healthcare professionals throughout the country and subsequently distributed thousands of CDC 'tear sheets' setting forth the guideline's recommendations.*

We believe that no pharmaceutical manufacturer has done more to address the opioid addiction crisis than Purdue, and we continue to work closely with and governments and law enforcement agencies on this difficult social issue. Since 2000, we have pursued more than [65 initiatives \[na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](#) in an effort to minimize diversion and abuse pharmaceutical opioid medications. For example, when Purdue learned that Oxycontin tablets could be crushed to defeat

the time-release properties and extract the active ingredient, Purdue invested hundreds of millions of dollars to receive FDA approval of the first prescription opioid with abuse-deterrent properties (2010). And when the Centers for Disease Control issued new guidelines for doctors to use prescribing prescription opioids, we promptly sent that updated information to health care professionals.

Purdue Pharma and the individual former directors vigorously denies the allegations in the complaint and will continue to defend themselves against these misleading allegations. In the meantime, Purdue continues to fight for balance in the public discourse so that society can simultaneously help pain patients in need and create real solutions to the complex problem of addiction.

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