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RELEASE

Los Angeles Woman Named in Mass Action Suit against Birth Control Patch

Wrongful Death Suit also Filed by Los Angeles Law Firms

(December 12, 2006) A mass action suit naming a Los Angeles area women suffering from deep vein thrombosis and a wrongful death suit involving a 26- year- old Tennessee woman were filed today in California State Court against Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical Company, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson (NYSE: JNJ) and the drug's distributor, McKesson Corporation. (NYSE: MCK) The women allege that their injuries were caused by Ortho Evra, the fastest growing birth control contraceptive in the United States.

Of the 55 women nationwide named in the mass action suit suffering from blood clots and other serious injuries, 25- year- old Carmen Ordaz of Inglewood, CA was hospitalized for two weeks for deep vein thrombosis in her legs. After her hospital stay, her doctors took her off the patch. "If I start taking it again, the clots might return. I'm scared, I don't want to die," Ordaz says.

The Los Angeles- based Law Offices of Shawn Khorrami and Kabateck, Brown and Kellner filed the mass action and wrongful death suits in San Francisco. Khorrami and Brian Kabateck, among the country's legal experts on Ortho Evra, carry one of the largest case loads in the country against the contraceptive manufacturer, representing more than 450 plaintiffs.

“All this product offers is convenience. I don't think any of these women wanted to suffer these serious injuries or die for the sake of convenience. This product needs to be off the market,” says Khorrami.

Both suits charge that Ortho-McNeil, the world's leading contraceptive manufacturer, knowingly deceived the public about the drug's severe risk of side effects, which include strokes, blood clots, deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolisms. The suits further contend that the Defendants failed to properly investigate Ortho Evra's safety and actively knew of the contraceptive's harmful effects while continuing to market and distribute the drug without accurate warning.

Ortho Evra, FDA- approved in November 2001, is the first and only once-a-week birth control patch worn on the skin and the only contraceptive which continuously releases estrogen and progestin directly into the bloodstream. After logging more than 9,117 adverse reactions to the patch --far higher than those of oral contraceptives-- the FDA, on November 10, 2005, required Ortho Evra to carry a new bolded warning that the drug exposed women to 60% higher levels of estrogen than oral contraceptives. All the women in both lawsuits took Ortho Evra before the warning requirement went into effect.

"We believe that Ortho-McNeil knew of the dangers of the Ortho patch sold in the U.S. and choose to ignore them," explained Kabateck. "Patches sold in other countries, including Canada, actually contain a smaller, less dangerous dosage. Now, young women across the country are suffering serious illness and even death."

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