



Press Release

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Recent Verdicts Against Wyeth Underscore Momentum in Favor of Plaintiffs Who Claim to Have Developed Breast Cancer as the Result of Hormone Therapy

Los Angeles Plaintiff Firm Khorrami Pollard & Abir Moves Forward in Complex Litigation on Behalf of Women with Breast Cancer Linked to Premarin and Prempro

LOS ANGELES, CA – Two multi-million dollar verdicts in Philadelphia last week against pharmaceutical company Wyeth, a division of Pfizer, reinforce that juries are consistently finding the company responsible for breast cancer in women who took its Premarin and Prempro hormone replacement therapy (HRT) drugs.

And just last month, a ruling from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals confirmed that Wyeth did wrong, and that juries should be permitted to hear this evidence and determine whether the company should be punished.

In the verdicts announced last week, juries awarded Donna Kendall of Decatur, Illinois \$6.3 million in compensatory and \$28 million in punitive damages, and Connie Barton of Peoria, Illinois \$3.7 million in compensatory and \$75 million in punitive damages.

Through an ongoing federal multi-district litigation mass tort action, Wyeth still faces lawsuits from more than 10,000 women nationwide who claim that the company's drugs caused their breast cancer. Of the 12 verdicts announced to date, plaintiffs have been awarded money in 10 of the cases. Every jury that has been permitted to deliberate on punitive damages has returned substantial awards.

To date, winning plaintiffs have been awarded a total of more than \$42 million in compensatory and \$165 million in punitive damages. In addition, 13 women have settled their HRT claims with Wyeth or Pfizer outside of court.

Shawn Khorrami, founding partner of Los Angeles-based plaintiff firm Khorrami Pollard & Abir, is a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for the MDL litigation team, and his firm represents around 150 individuals pursuing cases against Wyeth.



“Juries are consistently finding that Wyeth marketed HRT drugs they knew could harm or even kill women and concealed that knowledge from patients,” Khorrami said. “We will never accept this type of disregard for women’s lives and will do whatever it takes to receive the same justice for our clients.”

Background on the case against Wyeth:

- Wyeth was on notice as early as 1975 of the need to study whether combination hormone therapy causes breast cancer. Despite more than a dozen red flags that breast cancer was a safety problem, Wyeth failed to conduct any breast cancer studies over the course of the next three decades.
- Instead of studying the breast cancer risk, Wyeth took active steps to downplay, dismiss and contain the release of data from other institution’s studies that showed such risk.
- Wyeth ghost-wrote dozens of medical articles that minimized the breast cancer risk and exaggerated the benefits of hormone therapy and then published these articles in reputable medical journals under independent doctor’s names.
- The issue was brought to public attention only when a 2002 government study was stopped early because of concerns over potential links to breast cancer.
- Studies now confirm that 200,000 women might not have developed breast cancer if they had not undergone combination hormone therapy.

For more information on the Barton and Kendall cases, [view this video](#).

About KPA

In the past 5 years, Khorrami Pollard & Abir LLP has obtained more than \$400 million in verdicts and settlements for clients throughout the U.S. from companies including Yahoo!, Coca-Cola, Eli Lilly and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

As one of the largest plaintiff-only firms in the nation, KPA currently represents tens of thousands of individuals, and handles class actions covering millions of members, in a variety of cases – including class actions, mass torts, pharmaceuticals, consumer fraud, labor and employment matters, product liability, natural disasters and toxic torts.

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