



OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

St. Louis County Launches Civil Opioids Case against Drug Companies

St. Louis County filed today with the State District Court in Duluth a complaint in a civil case against several drug companies that have been involved in a widespread campaign of unfairly, deceptively, and fraudulently marketing and promoting opioids in violation of Minnesota Law, St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin said.

The defendants in this case are companies within the Purdue, Teva, Janssen, and Endo enterprises.

Nick D. Campanario, the Assistant County Attorney handling the case, said that the ten-count complaint includes claims arising under Minnesota's public-nuisance statute, False Claims Act, Prevention of Consumer Fraud Act, false-advertising statute, Unlawful Trade Practices Act, and Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, as well as state-law claims for fraud, negligence, gross negligence, and unjust enrichment.

On behalf of the board and the citizens of St. Louis County, this is yet another positive step in our multi-faceted approach to addressing the opioid crisis in our communities, said Kevin Gray, St. Louis County Administrator.

The relief sought by St. Louis County includes, among other things, damages, penalties, and an injunction prohibiting future violations.

The case is similar to hundreds of other cases filed by states and local governments across the country in response to the opioid epidemic.

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners adopted the attached resolution authorizing the case in November 2017.

County Attorney Rubin added: Last week with leadership from our federal and state law enforcement and prosecutorial partnerships, we filed criminal conspiracy charges against individuals dealing heroin in our community. With the filing of this lawsuit today, the manufacturers of prescription opioids are going to be held accountable for their misdeeds.

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