



# COUNTY OF ERIE

## OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**Kathy Dahlkemper**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Erie County files prescription opiate litigation**

Erie, PA – County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper today announced that Erie County has filed a civil lawsuit against prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors over their alleged campaign of unfairly, deceptively and fraudulently marketing and unlawfully distributing opioids in Erie County.

“I have said it numerous times before, but the fact that we lose someone to a heroin overdose in Erie County every seven days does not change,” said Dahlkemper. “What has to change is how opioids are marketed and distributed. We have found evidence that these companies knowingly and deceptively marketed opioids and enabled the overprescribing and excess availability of these drugs for unintended and extended uses, creating the unprecedented crisis we have now. They must be held accountable and help us remedy what we can to help prevent future deaths.”

The complaint, filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania Civil Division, names opioid manufacturers and distributors: Purdue Pharma L.P.; Purdue Pharma Inc.; the Purdue Frederick Co. Inc.; Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc.; Endo Health Solutions Inc.; Johnson & Johnson; Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc.; Ortho-McNeil Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. N/K/A Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc.; Janssen Pharmaceutica Inc. N/K/A Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc.; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.; Mallinckrodt PLC; Mallinckrodt LLC; Cardinal Health Inc.; McKesson Corp.; and AmerisourceBergen Drug Corp. as defendants.

The county claims the defendants’ actions have violated, and continue to violate, the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, created a public nuisance, were negligent, were grossly negligent, engaged in fraudulent misrepresentation, and were unjustly enriched.

The complaint was signed by Erie County Solicitor Richard Perhacs. Motley Rice LLC attorneys Linda Singer, Elizabeth Smith and Jeffrey Nelson and Goldberg Persky & White P.C. attorneys Bruce Mattock and Jason Shipp are outside counsel for Erie County.

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