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Arkansas counties and cities file joint lawsuit against opioid drug manufacturers

Unique, unified approach is unlike any other in the country and ensures recovered damages stay in Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (March 21, 2018) – In a unified and unprecedented approach against the opioid drug industry, the state of Arkansas, Arkansas counties and Arkansas cities announced that together they have filed a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Crittenden County.

This unique litigation approach is unlike any others in the country and will represent 90 percent of Arkansas’s population, with 72 counties and 210 cities participating. It is believed that it will cost billions to stop the Arkansas opioid epidemic and that this money should come from the companies that caused the problem instead of taxpayers.

“Though other lawsuits have been filed in federal courts across the country, Arkansas is the only state that has united in this fashion,” said Chris Villines, executive director of the Association of Arkansas Counties. “Instead of fighting and competing with each other on critically needed settlement dollars for our cities and counties, all of the cities and counties are working together to do what’s best for Arkansas.”

The epidemic is real and has ravaged Arkansas families for years. While the U.S. experiences more than 42,000 fatal overdoses a year, Arkansas experiences over 400, a number that has increased nearly 300 percent since 2000 and coincides with opioid sales quadrupling. Additionally, Arkansas ranks second in the nation for ages 12-17 in misuse of opioids (4.67%) behind Alabama, which is also the only other state with a higher opioid prescribing rate than Arkansas, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“It is hard to find anyone who hasn’t felt the effects of an opioid addiction from family, friends or even in themselves,” said Kirk Lane, Arkansas State Drug Director. “Though great strides have been made recently to curb the epidemic – especially helping cities fund necessary resources like the opiate antagonist Naloxone (Narcan) – much more could be done to fund ongoing programs for education and prevention.”

In 2017, there were more opioid prescriptions than people – enough for every man, woman and child to have 80 pills per year. Hospitals and rehabilitation systems cannot keep pace with the influx of victims. The resources of public safety officials are constantly strained to meet the overwhelming needs of opioid-related emergencies. As a result, the state of Arkansas, its counties, cities and taxpayers have funded the enormous societal costs of the opioid epidemic, but have had insufficient revenue to turn the tide of the epidemic.

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“Arkansas’s one-voice approach to this lawsuit is one that gives us a seat at the table,” said Don Zimmerman, executive director of the Arkansas Municipal League. “Neither the state or any county or city is big enough alone; this litigation approach ensures that recovered damages remain in Arkansas.”

For more information about the lawsuit, or to find additional resources on the opioid epidemic in Arkansas, please visit ARCounties.org, ARML.org or APERMA.com.

About the Association of Arkansas Counties (AAC)

The AAC supports and promotes the idea that all elected officials must have the opportunity to act together in order to solve mutual problems as a unified group. To further this goal, the AAC is committed to providing a single source of cooperative support and information for all counties and county and district officials. To learn more, visit ARCounties.org or find the AAC on social media @75ARCounties ([Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/75ARCounties) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/75ARCounties)) or on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/75ARCounties).

About the Arkansas Municipal League (AML)

Founded in 1934, the AML exists to act as the official representative of Arkansas cities and towns before the state and federal government, to provide a clearinghouse for information and answers and to offer a forum for discussion and sharing of mutual concerns. In doing these things, the central purpose of the AML is to advance the interest and welfare of the people residing in the cities and towns in Arkansas. To learn more, visit ARML.org or find the AML on Facebook ([@Arkansas.Municipal.League](https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasMunicipalLeague)) or Twitter ([@ARMuniLeague](https://twitter.com/ARMuniLeague)).

About the Arkansas Public Entities Risk Management Association (APERMA)

The APERMA is a comprehensive risk management program created by and for Arkansas public entities. Its mission is to provide protection of the physical and financial assets from a covered loss, to provide responsive claims handling services that are fair to all members and to provide expert legal advice and representation related to all public entity operations. To learn more, visit APERMA.com.

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APPENDICES

- A. List of Arkansas counties participating
- B. List of Arkansas municipalities participating
- C. List of named defendants



APPENDIX A: LIST OF ARKANSAS COUNTIES PARTICIPATING

1. Arkansas
2. Ashley
3. Baxter
4. Benton
5. Boone
6. Bradley
7. Calhoun
8. Carroll
9. Chicot
10. Clark
11. Clay
12. Cleburne
13. Cleveland
14. Columbia
15. Conway
16. Craighead
17. Crawford
18. Crittenden
19. Cross
20. Dallas
21. Desha
22. Faulkner
23. Franklin
24. Fulton
25. Garland
26. Grant
27. Green
28. Hempstead
29. Hot Spring
30. Howard
31. Independence
32. Izard
33. Jackson
34. Johnson
35. Lafayette
36. Lawrence
37. Lee
38. Lincoln
39. Little River
40. Logan
41. Lonoke
42. Madison
43. Marion
44. Miller
45. Mississippi
46. Monroe
47. Montgomery
48. Nevada
49. Newton
50. Ouachita
51. Perry
52. Phillips
53. Pike
54. Poinsett
55. Polk
56. Pope
57. Prairie
58. Randolph
59. Saline
60. Scott
61. Searcy
62. Sebastian
63. Sevier
64. Sharp
65. St. Francis
66. Stone
67. Union
68. Van Buren
69. Washington
70. White
71. Woodruff
72. Yell



APPENDIX B: LIST OF ARKANSAS MUNICIPALITIES PARTICIPATING

1. Alma
2. Alpena
3. Altus
4. Arkadelphia (CLARK CTY. SEAT)
5. Arkansas City (DESHA CTY. SEAT)
6. Ash Flat (SHARP CTY. SEAT)
7. Ashdown (LITTLE RIVER CTY. SEAT)
8. Augusta (WOODRUFF CTY. SEAT)
9. Avoca
10. Barling
11. Batesville (INDEPENDENCE CTY. SEAT)
12. Bay
13. Beebe
14. Bella Vista
15. Benton (SALINE CTY. SEAT)
16. Bentonville (BENTON CTY. SEAT)
17. Berryville (CARROLL CTY. SEAT)
18. Bethel Heights
19. Birdsong
20. Biscoe
21. Black Rock
22. Blytheville (MISSISSIPPI CTY. SEAT)
23. Bono
24. Booneville (LOGAN CTY. SEAT)
25. Bradford
26. Brinkley
27. Brookland
28. Bryant
29. Bull Shoals
30. Cabot
31. Caddo Valley
32. Calico Rock
33. Calion
34. Camden (OUACHITA CTY. SEAT)
35. Cammack Village
36. Caraway
37. Carlisle
38. Cave Springs
39. Cedarville
40. Centerton
41. Cherokee Village
42. Cherry Valley
43. Clarksville (JOHNSON CTY. SEAT)
44. Clinton (VAN BUREN CTY. SEAT)
45. Coal Hill
46. Conway (FAULKNER CTY. SEAT)
47. Cotton Plant
48. Cove
49. Crawfordsvilleville
50. Crossett
51. Damascus
52. Danville (YELL CTY. SEAT)
53. Dardanelle (YELL CTY. SEAT)
54. Datto
55. Dell
56. DeQueen (SEVIER CTY. SEAT)
57. DeWitt (AR CTY. SEAT)
58. Dover
59. Dumas
60. Earle
61. East Camden
62. El Dorado (UNION CTY. SEAT)
63. Elkins
64. Elm Springs
65. Emerson
66. England
67. Eureka Springs (CARROLL CTY. SEAT)
68. Fairfield Bay
69. Farmington
70. Flippin
71. Fordyce (DALLAS CTY. SEAT)
72. Foreman
73. Forrest City (ST. FRANCIS CTY. SEAT)
74. Fort Smith (SEBASTIAN CTY. SEAT)
75. Fouke
76. Fountain Lake



77. Gentry
78. Goshen
79. Gravette
80. Greenbrier
81. Greenland
82. Greenwood
83. Greers Ferry
84. Grubbs
85. Gum Springs
86. Hampton (CALHOUN CTY. SEAT)
87. Hardy
88. Harrison (BOONE CTY. SEAT)
89. Hartman
90. Haskell
91. Hatfield
92. Hazen
93. Heber Springs (CLEBURNE CTY)
94. Helena-West Helena (PHILLIPS CTY. SEAT)
95. Highfill
96. Highland
97. Holly Grove
98. Hope (HEMPSTEAD CTY. SEAT)
99. Horatio
100. Hot Springs (GARLAND CTY. SEAT)
101. Hoxie
102. Huntsville (MADISON CTY. SEAT)
103. Imboden
104. Jacksonville
105. Jasper (NEWTON CTY. SEAT)
106. Jennette
107. Johnson
108. Jonesboro (CRAIGHEAD CTY. SEAT)
109. Junction City
110. Kensett
111. Knoxville
112. Lake City (CRAIGHEAD CTY. SEAT)
113. Lake View
114. Lake Village (CHICOT CTY. SEAT)
115. Lakeview
116. Lamar
117. Leachville
118. Lexa
119. Lincoln
120. Little Rock (PULASKI CTY. SEAT)
121. London
122. Lonoke (LONOKE CTY. SEAT)
123. Lowell
124. Madison
125. Magnolia (COLUMBIA CTY. SEAT)
126. Malvern (HOT SPRING CTY. SEAT)
127. Mammoth Spring
128. Mansfield
129. Marianna (LEE CTY. SEAT)
130. Marion (CRITTENDEN CTY. SEAT)
131. Marked Tree
132. Marmaduke
133. Maumelle
134. Mayflower
135. McCaskill
136. McCrory
137. McGehee
138. McRae
139. Mena (POLK CTY. SEAT)
140. Menifee
141. Mineral Springs
142. Mitchellville
143. Monticello (DREW CTY. SEAT)
144. Moorefield
145. Morrilton (CONWAY CTY. SEAT)
146. Mountain View (STONE CTY. SEAT)
147. Mountainburg
148. Mulberry
149. Murfreesboro (PIKE CTY. SEAT)
150. Newark
151. Newport (JACKSON CTY. SEAT)
152. North Little Rock
153. Ogden
154. Osceola
155. Oxford



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| 156. Ozark (FRANKLIN CTY. SEAT) | 184. Springdale |
| 157. Pangburn | 185. St. Charles |
| 158. Paragould (GREENE CTY. SEAT) | 186. St. Paul |
| 159. Paris (LOGAN CTY. SEAT) | 187. Stamps |
| 160. Parkin | 188. Star City (LINCOLN CTY. SEAT) |
| 161. Patterson | 189. Stephens |
| 162. Pea Ridge | 190. Stuttgart |
| 163. Piggott (CLAY CTY. SEAT) | 191. Texarkana (MILLER CTY. SEAT) |
| 164. Pine Bluff (JEFFERSON CTY. SEAT) | 192. Thornton |
| 165. Pleasant Plains | 193. Tontitown |
| 166. Plumerville | 194. Trumann |
| 167. Pocahontas (RANDOLPH CTY. SEAT) | 195. Tuckerman |
| 168. Portland | 196. Valley Springs |
| 169. Pottsville | 197. Van Buren (CRAWFORD CTY. SEAT) |
| 170. Prairie Grove | 198. Vilonia |
| 171. Prescott (NEVADA CTY. SEAT) | 199. Walnut Ridge (LAWRENCE CTY. SEAT) |
| 172. Rector | 200. Ward |
| 173. Rogers | 201. Warren (BRADLEY CTY. SEAT) |
| 174. Russell | 202. Weiner |
| 175. Russellville (POPE CTY. SEAT) | 203. West Fork |
| 176. Salesville | 204. West Memphis |
| 177. Searcy (WHITE CTY. SEAT) | 205. Whelen Springs |
| 178. Shannon Hills | 206. Wickes |
| 179. Sheridan (GRANT CTY. SEAT) | 207. Wilmar |
| 180. Sherwood | 208. Wilmot |
| 181. Shirley | 209. Wynne (CROSS CTY. SEAT) |
| 182. Siloam Springs | 210. Yellville (MARION CTY. SEAT) |
| 183. Smackover | |

APPENDIX C: LIST OF NAMED DEFENDANTS

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| 1. Purdue Pharma, L.P. | 9. Johnson & Johnson |
| 2. Purdue Pharma, Inc. | 10. Watson Laboratories, Inc. |
| 3. The Purdue Frederick Company | 11. Actavis Pharma, Inc. |
| 4. Cephalon, Inc. | 12. Watson Pharma, Inc. |
| 5. Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, LTD | 13. Actavis, LLC |
| 6. Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. | 14. Endo Health Solutions, Inc. |
| 7. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. | 15. Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. |
| 8. Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. | 16. Vintage Pharmaceuticals, LLC |
| | 17. Insys Therapeutics, Inc. |
| | 18. Mallinckrodt, PLC |



19. Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
20. Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
21. Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries, Inc.
22. Aurobindo Pharma USA, Inc.
23. Aurolife Pharma, LLC
24. Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
25. Collegium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
26. BioDelivery Sciences International, Inc.
27. Shionogi, Inc.
28. Abbvie, Inc.
29. Abbott Laboratories, Inc.
30. Pernix Therapeutics Holdings, Inc.
31. Daiichi Sank Yo, Inc.
32. Forest Laboratories, Inc.
33. Forest Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
34. Mayne Pharma, Inc.
35. Apotex, Inc.
36. West-Ward Pharmaceuticals Corp.
37. Gemini Laboratories, LLC
38. Poly-Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
39. Akorn, Inc.
40. Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America, LLC
41. ECR Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
42. Depomed, Inc.
43. Validus Pharmaceuticals, LLC
44. Egalet Corporation
45. Vernalis Therapeutics, Inc.
46. UCB Pharma, Inc.
47. Xanodyne Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
48. Vertical Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
49. Sentynl Therapeutics, Inc.
50. Thodes Technologies, Inc.
51. Rhodes Technologies, L.P.
52. Sandoz, Inc.
53. AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation
54. Cardinal Health, Inc.
55. McKesson Corporation
56. Linden Care, LLC
57. KJ Medical Management, LLC
58. CJN Pharmacy Services, LLC
59. Perry County Food & Drug, Inc.
60. Mahmood Ahmad, M.D.
61. United Pain Care, LTD
62. Shawn Michael Brooks, M.D.
63. Kirsten Holland
64. Richard Duane Johns
65. Christopher Watson