



GLAW

A publication for
the clients and
friends of
GoldenbergLaw,
PLLC

"Promoting Safety Through Accountability"

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A message from...

Stuart Goldenberg

After 20 years, Pfizer finally admits that Opioids are Addictive

Our firm has handled thousands of cases involving clients who have suffered serious pain and required pain medication. We have seen many of our clients become addicted to pain killers known as opioids. OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, and Demerol are examples of these opioids. But most people don't know that heroin is also an opioid. Opioids cause as many as 60 deaths per day and are extremely addictive—even when used as prescribed! The CDC estimates 2.1 million people are addicted to pain killers in the US.

For years over 20 years, drug companies have marketed these drugs heavily to doctors who prescribed them widely to patients. The drug companies claimed that the drugs were not addictive if used as prescribed. Now finally, after 20 years, Pfizer has agreed to add warnings to their brands of opioids that **“they carry serious risk of addiction –even when used properly.”**

This did not happen voluntarily. In 2013, the City of Chicago sued five opioid makers- Johnson & Johnson, Purdue Pharma, Teva, Endo, Heath, and Actavis. Pfizer was not sued because they agreed to change their warnings. Sadly, a Judge dismissed all the claims except the fraudulent marketing claims against Purdue (maker of OxyContin). But these companies still won't admit they promoted addiction.

The opioid addiction story has gone on for many years with the drug companies denying the addiction potential. In 2007 Purdue pled guilty to criminal charges of misleading physicians, regulators and the public about the addictive qualities of the OxyContin. Yet, sales have never been better. In 2015 its revenue from OxyContin was over 3 billion dollars.

Just this year, the CDC released new guidelines that call on doctors to sharply curtail the use of pain killers. The FDA has required its strongest warning on opioids and addiction. There are a number of studies published in SPINE showing that use of opioids for acute low back pain is counterproductive to recovery. Pfizer has finally now conceded that **“there is no good research on opioids’ effectiveness beyond 12 weeks.”**

Almost everyone will be prescribed opioids sometime in their lives. There is no question these are addictive and potentially dangerous drugs. They must be prescribed in small doses and used carefully or people will become addicted. Shame on this industry for promoting addiction. It only took 20 years to get one apology and this admission.

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DANGEROUS DRUGS AND DEVICES

GoldenbergLaw is currently investigating claims involving these products and has 30 years of experience handling dangerous drug and device cases. Contact us at (612) 436-5026 or 1-855-333-4662.

ABILIFY

A widely prescribed antipsychotic medication approved for treatment of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression - linked to compulsive gambling behaviors.



BAIR HUGGER

A warming blanket used during surgeries that can spread contaminated air over open wounds - linked to deep joint infections and need for revision surgery.



TALCUM POWDER/BABY POWDER

Talc-based powder used for many purposes - linked to ovarian cancer when used for female hygiene in genital area.



METAL-ON-METAL HIP

Models include DePuy ASR, DePuy Pinnacle, Zimmer Durom Cup, and others - linked to implant loosening, pain, high metal levels in blood, and need for revision surgery.



BENICAR

Blood pressure medication - linked to severe intestinal problems that cause chronic diarrhea, dehydration, and weight loss.



ZIMMER PERSONA KNEE

A knee device system that has been recalled by the manufacturer - has been known to loosen and cause bone damage when uncemented.



INFERIOR VENA CAVA FILTER

Blood clot filters placed in the large vein leading to the heart - shown to migrate or fracture after a period of time and can puncture parts of the vein or other internal organs.



TESTOSTERONE THERAPY DRUGS

Male hormone drugs - linked to increased risk of heart attack, blood clots, stroke, or death.



MEDTRONIC PARADIGM PUMP

Insulin pump - linked to defects resulting in over or under delivery of insulin, serious illness, and/or death.



GRANUFLO/NATURALYTE

Dialysate solutions - linked to metabolic alkalosis, cardiopulmonary arrest, sudden cardiac death, and other cardiac-related events.



STRYKER REJUVENATE/ ABG II HIP STEM

Modular hip stems - linked to corrosion at stem/neck juncture leading to elevated metal levels in bloodstream, necrosis, and revision surgery.



XARELTO

A blood thinner medication that has been linked to uncontrollable bleeding.



DANGEROUS

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS



A CLIENT'S STORY

Are supplement manufacturers putting your health at risk for their own profit?

When a previous client of ours purchased NutraSilver (a supplement containing colloidal silver), his expectation was that it would cure his skin condition—not create a new one. In early 2011 the client developed a rash that doctors were unable to treat effectively, leading him to conduct his own research on the internet. He discovered NutraSilver.com, which claimed to treat and cure Morgellons disease. After reading NutraSilver's webpage on the disease, he realized that many symptoms he had been experiencing were listed as symptoms of Morgellons. The existence of Morgellons as a diagnosable disease is a subject of debate in the medical community. The Mayo Clinic calls the condition "mysterious and controversial." The Centers for the Disease Control (CDC) hasn't classified Morgellons as an actual disease. As a result of this, those who believe they have Morgellons can be easy targets for companies selling supplements containing colloidal silver, such as NutraSilver.

Why? The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) of 1994 prevents colloidal silver from being sold as a drug (something that cures or alters specific diseases), but it does not prevent colloidal

silver from being sold as a supplement. Russell Altman of Beneficial Solutions, LLC (the manufacturer of NutraSilver) has taken advantage of this loophole in the law and markets NutraSilver as a supplement that can cure Morgellons.

Individuals like our client who believe they have Morgellons describe crawling sensations on and under the skin with fiber-like filaments emerging from sores on the skin's surface—an unpleasant experience to say the least. Despite receiving a warning letter from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2011 regarding false claims about the treatment of Morgellons and other diseases, Mr. Altman continued to market his product as a cure with no adverse side effects.

In 2014 the client's friends and family began to notice his skin was turning a blue-gray color. He was diagnosed with Argyria in January 2014, a skin condition resulting from silver deposits in the skin cells. He continues to undergo exceptionally painful laser surgery treatments in an effort to return his skin to its normal color. Our client was rightfully angered that Russell Altman and Beneficial Solutions, LLC ignored the law. Altman had not only taken advantage of his condition but had also caused him excruciating pain that came with costly medical bills. He contacted our firm where, after extensive litigation, we helped him secure compensation for his bizarre and painful experience.

We have helped many like him and hope to help many more in the future. GoldenbergLaw is dedicated to providing safety through accountability.

MENTS

WHAT ARE DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS?

Vitamins, probiotics, minerals, herbs, and enzymes in the form of pills, powders, shakes, and bars that are advertised to help with things like:



**BODY
BUILDING**



WEIGHT LOSS



**PAIN AND
DISEASE**



**ANTI-
AGING**



**BRAIN
POWER**

CONSUMER SAFETY TIPS

STAY INFORMED AND STAY SAFE

- 1** Dietary supplements do not treat or cure disease.
- 2** Read the label and research the ingredients. Some recalled supplements change the name of the dangerous ingredient and remarket the same recalled product.
- 3** “Natural” does not mean safe.
- 4** Always talk to your doctor before taking a new supplement to ensure the product is safe for you to use.
- 5** If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

If a dietary supplement contains anything other than a dietary ingredient, it is considered to be adulterated. In this case the FDA may issue a warning letter to the manufacturer directing them to remove the adulterated ingredient. Additionally, if the FDA is able to prove that the supplement or any of its ingredients is dangerous, it can issue a recall of the product.

HOW DO ADULTERATED PRODUCTS MAKE IT TO STORE SHELVES?

The FDA doesn't have regulatory control over dietary supplements. What does this mean? It means that supplement manufacturers are in charge of regulating the safety and efficacy of their own products. The sale and manufacturing of dietary supplements is a multi-billion dollar industry that shows no sign of slowing down. Since supplements don't need FDA approval before being sold on the market, manufacturers can easily make gregarious claims that are usually untrue. It is only through adverse event reporting filed by consumers to the manufacturer (who then is supposed to relay the report to the FDA) that the dangers of dietary supplements become known.



**Marlene
Goldenberg**

**Noah
Lauricella**

**Stuart
Goldenberg**

**Laura
Pittner**

GOLDENBERGLAW LEADERSHIP

Leadership positions held both in and out of the office aren't only about power and ability to lead. A true leader acts selflessly and is happy to lend a helping hand to those who need it. At GoldenbergLaw we have dedicated ourselves to fulfilling the definition of a true leader for the past 31 years.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

Plaintiff's Steering Committee in MDL No. 2606:
In re Benicar (Olmesartan) Products Liability
Litigation - **Stuart Goldenberg**
Discovery Committee - **Laura Pittner**

Plaintiff's Steering Committee in MDL No. 2641:
In re Bard IVC Filters Products Liability Litigation
- **Stuart Goldenberg**
Discovery and Briefing Committees -
Marlene Goldenberg

Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL No. 2666,
In re: Bair Hugger Forced Air Warming Products
Liability Litigation - **Noah Lauricella**

Speakers at American Association for Justice
(AAJ) National Convention in February 2016 in
Boca Raton, FL re: screening criteria for talcum
powder/ovarian cancer cases against Johnson &
Johnson - **Stuart Goldenberg and
Noah Lauricella**

Co-Chair of the American Association for Justice
(AAJ) Abilify Litigation Group -
Marlene Goldenberg

Co-Lead Counsel for 850 cases in the Medtronic
Infuse Bone Graft Litigation Group -
Stuart Goldenberg
Discovery, Briefing, and ESI Committees -
Marlene Goldenberg
ESI and Science Committees - **Noah Lauricella**

Co-Chair of Minnesota Association of Justice's
(MNAJ's) Women for Justice - **Laura Pittner**

Volunteer Attorney for Children's Law Center -
Marlene Goldenberg

Attorney for Volunteer Lawyer's Network -
Laura Pittner

Campaign Co-Chair of the Federation for Jewish
Service 2016 - 2018 - **Stuart Goldenberg**

get to know...

Joseph Sherling

If you call GoldenbergLaw regarding a potential claim, chances are you will speak with our Intake Specialist, Joseph Sherling. Joseph graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2015 with a degree in Biochemistry.

Joey became a part of the GoldenbergLaw team immediately after graduation in May 2015. Joseph's scientific expertise is a valuable asset to the firm. Aside from intake, he also performs research on the firm's defective products, drugs, and devices. Joseph's reviews of the scientific studies give all of us a roadmap of what went wrong and why.



If you could trade places with any person in the world for a day who would it be and why?

I would trade places with Adrian Peterson. I would love to see how it feels to run in for a touchdown after breaking two tackles.

What exotic animal would you like to have as a pet and what would you name it?

I would have a black bear and name it Harry.

What do you like most about science?

I love how science tries to explain everything. Every case we work on has vast amounts of science behind it explaining why the product is defective and how it can hurt people.

What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

In college I went on a road trip from Minnesota to California to watch the UW-Madison Badgers compete in the Rose Bowl. We ended up driving through the Rocky Mountains at night, while it was snowing.

GOLDENBERG LAW

Products Liability & Personal Injury Attorneys

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Toxic Tort
Catastrophic Injury
Insurance Disputes