

Participation by Opioid-addicted Babies and Foster Children in the National Opioid Epidemic Litigation



Our nation's children, especially our newborns, are suffering in this nation's clinics and hospitals from real, provable damages related to their parents' addiction to prescription opioids.

Here are the Facts*:

INFANTS

- National studies of Medicaid-enrolled women by the Centers for Disease Control found that 21.6 percent filled at least one opioid prescription during pregnancy.
- Every 19 minutes an opioid addicted baby is born in this country.
- Newborn babies experience side effects to include excessive crying, heavy sweating, diarrhea, tremors, convulsions, seizures, vomiting, difficulty sleeping, loss of appetite and pain as soon as 24 hours to 10 days after birth.
- Methadone or Morphine is often needed to treat infant opioid withdrawal, known as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. Long-term side effects include Attention Deficit Disorder, cognitive deficits, growth delays, depression and behavioral problems, and the ability to function independently.

FOSTER CARE IMPACTS

- New foster care cases involving parents who are using drugs have hit the highest point in more than three decades of record-keeping, accounting for 92,000 NEW children entering the system in 2016, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- The crisis is so severe – with a 32 percent spike in drug-related cases from 2012 to 2016 – it reversed a trend that had the foster care system shrinking in size over the preceding decade.
- All told, a total of 437,000 children were in the foster care system as of Sept. 30, 2016. Child and family assistance spending related to the epidemic was about \$6.1 billion in 2016.

**These facts provided by our medical expert Dr. Brent Bell*

Increased medical costs, social service costs, child welfare costs, law enforcement costs, court costs, incarceration costs, loss of worker productivity, wrongful deaths, lost personal opportunities: These are the rising costs of a national addiction problem caused by opioid manufacturers and distributors.

Addicted parents, removal of children from parents, and addicted infants pose a direct threat to our society. There is a significant lack of resources for education, treatment, prevention and public safety in our communities to address this growing epidemic threatening our future and our families.

Let us discuss how we can fight back together. We're at the forefront of fighting the national opioid litigation battle, and we're in a good position to get justice now. Stand with us.



Opioid Justice Now

The team's lead attorneys for litigation recovery, **Kevin Malone** and **Kevin W. Thompson**, have represented thousands of clients and recovered billions of dollars for their clients through repeated success in high-stakes litigation. **They are the ideal litigation recovery team in this nation's opioid crisis.**



Kevin A. Malone, Litigator has served as President and Managing Director of one of the oldest and most durable law firms in the State of Florida: Krupnick Campbell Malone. KCM has been involved with national Opioid litigation since 2003. Malone has also served as Lead Counsel for the European Union and all of the Member States, (with the exception of the UK) for lawsuits in the United States since 2000. He has represented these and other governments in litigation in the United States in civil claims for RICO violations, fraud, white-collar crime and negligence. He has served as Lead Counsel for the EU and Member States at the trial level, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has negotiated settlements in amounts in the billions of dollars.



Kevin W. Thompson is a lawyer, entrepreneur, and inventor who has been involved in high-stakes litigation across the country for more than 20 years. Thompson served as class counsel and head of a litigation team that achieved a \$151 million settlement for the people of Charleston, WV whose water supply was tainted and economy disrupted during the Elk River Spill of 2014. He has been nominated twice for Public Justice's Trial Lawyer of the Year Award for his groundbreaking work in the public interest. Thompson's work has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, Rolling Stone Magazine, National Geographic, on ABC TV News, and in two documentaries, Coal Rush and Toxic Soup.

MEDICAL EXPERTS



Brent Bell PA-C, Ph.D has practiced medicine for 26 years in the World's Largest Medical Center in Houston, Texas. The majority of his tenure was spent at both MD Anderson Cancer Center and Houston Methodist. He graduated in 1993 as a Physician Assistant and entered practice at the beginning of the opioid crisis.

His entire career was in Oncology, where opioids played a very necessary role. Brent has published extensively and has many credits and accolades regarding his clinical research. He is highly regarded by both patients as their advocate and by physicians, many of them chairmen of their departments, for running their world-class services. Brent was one of two initial team leaders who implemented the MD Anderson Physician Assistant Residency Program in Oncology which still functions because of his efforts to this day.



Dr. Kanwaljeet "Sunny" Anand is the preeminent expert on opioid addiction in newborns and the chief of pediatrics at Stanford University. Dr. Anand was a Rhodes scholar at University of Oxford. He did a post-doctoral fellowship in Anesthesia at Harvard, Pediatrics residency training at Boston's Children's Hospital, and Critical Care Medicine fellowship training at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Anand is on the executive committee at the Pediatric Pain Research Network, and has published over 260 peer reviewed articles and 47 book chapters. Dr. Anand has no ties to the pharmaceutical industry defendants, and has not accepted research funding or speaking fees from them.

Our team of renowned experts is already building a damage model that will capture the extent of the economic loss suffered by Americans, their families, businesses and communities because of the additional uncompensated expenses and stress on resources that have come with the Opioid Crisis. Our experts are also developing proposals to bring communities the resources they need to fight the causes of the Opioid Crisis and deal with its effects.

Join us: www.opioidjusticenow.com or call 800-LAW-2999