

The logo for the Opioid Justice Team features a blue silhouette of a mountain range at the top. Below it, the words "OPIOID JUSTICE TEAM" are written in a blue, serif, all-caps font. The text is underlined with two horizontal lines.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PARISH OF DESOTO JOINS OTHER JURISDICTIONS IN COURT AGAINST OPIOID MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS**

The Parish of DeSoto, through its attorneys at Marioneaux & Williams, LLC and Porteous, Hainkel and Johnson LLP, has filed a lawsuit against America's pharmaceutical industry for knowingly mislabeling and misrepresenting opiate-based drugs and creating a spiraling addiction crisis across the nation. The suit seeks to create a long-term solution to help municipalities deal with the medical, social and legal issues related to the epidemic.

The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, and provisionally transferred to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District, where suits are being consolidated into Multi-District Litigation by Judge Dan Polster of Cleveland, Ohio.

There are currently hundreds of suits filed across the nation against the opioid manufacturers and distributors, many of which have been aggregated in a multi-district litigation proceeding in Cleveland, Ohio before U.S. District Judge Dan Polster.

Marioneaux & Williams, LLC and Porteous, Hainkel and Johnson are part of a national leadership team of attorneys called the Opioid Justice Team, which has filed a number of lawsuits, including class actions, on behalf of counties, parishes, cities, non-profit health providers, drug rehab centers, opioid-addicted babies, and Native American Tribes, all of which have borne extensive unreimbursed costs caused by the opioid epidemic.

The team alleges that civil lawsuits brought against the pharmaceutical drug manufacturers, opioid drug distributors and/or wholesalers, are the only way to remedy the prescription opioid drug epidemic.

"The documented facts show that pharmaceutical manufacturers deceptively marketed their opioid products by exaggerating the benefits of opioids and by intentionally downplaying the extremely addictive nature of opioids," said Mr. Marioneaux, Jr.

The lawsuits also focus on the distributors' violation of the Controlled Substances Act by their failing to report unusual patterns associated with certain opioid purchases and use. DeSoto Parish's attorneys point to the fact that there have been on-the-record admissions of wrongdoing by some of the defendant manufacturers and distributors of opioids. A number of these target defendants have pled guilty to criminal violations and/or paid massive fines to settle charges or claims against them.

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