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Court Certifies Class Action for Canadian Women Harmed by HRT

Vancouver, August 5, 2011- The British Columbia Supreme Court has certified a class action on behalf of Canadian women who suffered breast cancer after taking hormone replacement therapy. The case is *Stanway v. Wyeth Canada Inc. et al.* The Defendants are the makers of Premarin and Premplus which are sold as prescription drugs for relief of symptoms of menopause. The Plaintiff, Dianna Stanway of Sechelt, British Columbia, took Premarin for 7 years. She stopped taking the drug after reading news reports linking it to breast cancer. This came too late however, as she was diagnosed with ductal and lobular breast cancer just 2 months after she had stopped taking the drug. The Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants marketed their hormone replacement products for decades without sufficient research as to their safety, and that the Defendants failed to investigate warning signs, dating back to the 1970s, concerning the risks posed by their drugs. Worse, the Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants used “ghostwriting” in scientific journals to distort and downplay these risks.

Explains Ms. Stanway, “I never would have taken Premarin if I had been told of the risks. Fortunately, I won my battle with breast cancer. Not everyone is so lucky. I want my lawsuit to help all Canadian women, and their families, who have been harmed by this drug.”

Ms. Stanway’s lawyer, Douglas Lennox, states: “This case concerns important public health issues. When information about the risks of breast cancer and HRT was first published, sales of the Defendants’ products plunged in Canada and in countries around the world. This was followed by an unprecedented drop in the rates of breast cancer in Canada and in other countries. This epidemiological evidence suggests that the Defendants’ products may have been responsible for literally thousands of needless cancers.”

David Klein, also counsel for Ms. Stanway, adds, “We look forward to bringing this case to trial. Many similar lawsuits have already been successfully tried to conclusion in the United States, resulting in repeated verdicts against the Defendants. This has led to the settlement of more than 3300 cases in that country. Pfizer Inc., which purchased the Defendants two years ago, recently set aside \$772 million to resolve remaining claims in the United States. The drug is the same, no matter which side of the border it is sold on. The harm is the same. It is time for the Defendants to also compensate injured Canadian women.”

About Klein Lyons

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Contact:

Toronto:

Douglas Lennox, Klein Lyons, 416-506-1944, dlennox@kleinlyons.com

Vancouver

David Klein, Klein Lyons, 604-874-7171, dklein@kleinlyons.com

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