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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Federal Court Grants Public Access to Evidence that Drug Company 'Ghostwrote' Medical Articles About Deadly Hormone Therapy Drug**

A federal judge in Arkansas granted public access today to evidence that Wyeth Pharmaceuticals "ghostwrote" medical articles regarding its hormone therapy drug Prempro, which a national study has shown increase a woman's risk of stroke, heart attack, blood clots, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.

The evidence has been under seal in an ongoing federal lawsuit filed on behalf of victims of Prempro. Public Justice, a national public interest law firm headquartered in Washington D.C., sought access to the evidence on behalf of PLoS Medicine, a medical journal published by the non-profit Public Library of Science (PLOS). Along with the New York Times, PLOS had moved to intervene in the case to unseal the ghostwriting documents because the public has powerful interest in knowing the truth about the drug companies' conduct and the safety of their drugs.

"We are thrilled by the Court's decision to stop Wyeth's attempt to hide evidence of its ghostwriting," said Amy Radon, Public Justice's lead attorney for PLoS Medicine. "Public health and safety is put at serious risk when a drug company fails to reveal its role in authoring a medical journal article touting its own product."

The ghostwriting evidence in the Prempro litigation, which is ongoing, was under seal due to a confidentiality order that permitted Wyeth to shield from public inspection any material that Wyeth itself deemed to be "confidential."

In his July 24 ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Bill Wilson, Jr., held that there was no good cause for secrecy and ordered that the documents be made publicly available as of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31.

The New York Times reported last December that the secret documents include evidence of a "mammoth" ghostwriting campaign involving Prempro. U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, has this material as part of a congressional investigation into drug industry influence on doctors.

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“Wyeth did not even attempt to show good cause for keeping these documents secret,” said Morgan “Chip” Welch of Arkansas’ Welch and Kitchens, LLC. “Judge Wilson’s decision will undoubtedly save lives.”

To read the District Court's order, go to

[http://publicjustice.net/Repository/Files/Prempro\\_OrderUnsealing\\_072409.pdf](http://publicjustice.net/Repository/Files/Prempro_OrderUnsealing_072409.pdf)

To read Public Justice's brief in support of PLoS Medicine's motion to intervene, go to

[https://mail.publicjustice.net/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://publicjustice.net/Repository/Files/Prempro\\_BriefinSupportInterveneFINALV2\\_4.PDF](https://mail.publicjustice.net/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://publicjustice.net/Repository/Files/Prempro_BriefinSupportInterveneFINALV2_4.PDF)

To read Public Justice's brief in support of PLoS Medicine's motion for access to the materials in this case, go to

[https://mail.publicjustice.net/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://publicjustice.net/Repository/Files/Prempro\\_BriefinSupportUnsealFINAL\\_5.PDF](https://mail.publicjustice.net/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://publicjustice.net/Repository/Files/Prempro_BriefinSupportUnsealFINAL_5.PDF)

To read the New York Times [ITALICIZE?] article about Wyeth's ghostwriting campaign, go to

<http://publicjustice.net/Repository/Files/NYTimes-WyethGhostwriting.pdf>

To learn more about Public Justice and its Access to Justice Campaign, visit

<http://www.publicjustice.net/Key-Issues-Cases/Access-To-Justice.aspx>

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Public Justice is America’s public interest law firm, supported by – and calling on -- a nationwide network of more than 3,000 of the nation’s top lawyers to pursue precedent-setting and socially significant litigation. It has a wide-ranging litigation docket in the areas of consumer rights, worker safety, civil rights and liberties, toxic torts, environmental protection, and access to the courts. Public Justice is the principal project of the Public Justice Foundation, a not-for-profit membership organization headquartered in Washington, DC, with a West Coast office in Oakland, California. The Public Justice web site address is [www.publicjustice.net](http://www.publicjustice.net).