

August 03, 2009

**Our Access to Justice Campaign just won an important victory against drug company giant Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. U.S. District Court Judge Bill Wilson, Jr. granted public access to -- and ordered unsealed -- reams of evidence that Wyeth Pharmaceuticals "ghostwrote" medical journal articles promoting its own dangerous drugs!**



Public Justice represented *PLoS Medicine*, a medical journal published by the non-profit Public Library of Science, in urging the Court to unseal evidence that Wyeth had "ghostwritten" medical articles regarding its own hormone replacement therapy drugs, like Prempro, which a national study says increase a woman's risk of stroke, heart attack, blood clots, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. The ghostwriting evidence in this case had been under seal in an ongoing federal lawsuit filed on behalf of victims of Prempro. To gain access to these materials, Public Justice filed briefs explaining how ghostwriting threatens the integrity of any medical journal and can cause serious harm to consumers of prescription drugs, when doctors who rely on those journals to prescribe medications are unable to judge for themselves whether a journal article is credible or whether it presents only one side of the story.

"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 Goldberg, Waters & Kraus fellow and 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."

In his July 24 ruling, Judge Wilson 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*, who also intervened in this case to seek public access to the evidence of ghostwriting, reported last December that the secret documents include evidence of a "mammoth" ghostwriting campaign involving Prempro. U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, has requested more information about the material as part of a congressional investigation into drug industry influence on doctors.

"Wyeth did not even attempt to show good cause for keeping these documents secret," said Public Justice cooperating counsel Morgan "Chip" Welch of Welch and Kitchens, LLC in North Little Rock, Ark. "Judge Wilson's decision will undoubtedly save lives."

To read the District Court's order, [click here](#).

To read Public Justice's brief in support of *PLoS Medicine's* motion to intervene, [click here](#).

To read Public Justice's brief in support of *PLoS Medicine's* motion for access to the materials in this case, [click here](#).

To learn more about our Access to Justice Campaign, [click here](#).

In addition to Radon and Welch, Public Justice's legal team consists of Public Justice Staff Attorney Leslie Brueckner. We thank them all.

We thank you, too, for supporting Public Justice and our Access to Justice Campaign. To make a tax-deductible gift in support of this work, please [click here](#).

Thanks for your interest, dedication, and support. Keep fighting! - Arthur

Arthur Bryant  
Executive Director  
Public Justice  
& the Public Justice Foundation

**P.S. Please forward this email to friends and colleagues who'd be interested. (When you do so, delete the information below about unsubscribing, or they could unsubscribe you.) To make a special contribution, renew your membership, or join us, please [click here](#).**

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