To: Professor Elizabeth Burch

From: Ryan Giles

Date: 16 March, 2017

RE: Human Interest Findings Concerning *In Re Levaquin Products Liability Litigation (MDL 1943)*

Memorandum

Below is a synopsis of the relevant news stories concerning participants in the *In Re Levauin Products Liability Litigation* (MDL 1943):

1. One of the more interesting things I found was a website and blog created by John Fratti called *Hurt by Levaquin*. Mr. Fratti appears to have been a former pharmaceutical representative who was prescribed Levaquin. The drug caused him permanent disabilities including: burning nerve pain, tendonitis, central nervous system damage, severe insomnia, tremors, chemical sensitivities, food intolerances, head pressure, and vision abnormalities. Because of his injuries, he has dedicated himself to raising awareness about Levaquin and has created a blog to share information.
   1. Although he doesn’t specifically discuss the lawsuit on his blog (that I can find), I did find elsewhere that he is one of the plaintiffs in the MDL.
   2. Apparently Fratti’s lawsuit was not one of the initial 845 plaintiffs who were a part of the confidential settlement on October 30, 2012. ( See <http://www.johnsonandtoxin.com/payoff_settlement.shtml>)
   3. John Fratti spoke at a 2015 Johnson & Johnson shareholder meeting and asked the company leadership directly to address his condition as well as injuries from other Johnson and Johnson Products like mesh implants, Risperdal, and metal hip implants. You can listen to his speech on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzUDdTiFyAQ>.
      1. Apparently after the speech the CEO came down and promised to have his researchers look into why Levaquin affects certain people more than others. This was never actually done.
   4. You can see a YouTube video of an interview with Mr. Fratti where he discusses his condition and his experience taking Levaquin here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDJYcS9zT_E>.
      1. In this documentary he describes his conditions as well as his activism against the drug and Johnson & Johnson’s behavior.
   5. John Fratti was also featured on an independent documentary called *Certain Adverse Events.* The documentary is about Washington, D.C. based non-profit Public Citizen’s lawsuit against the FDA to force stronger warnings on certain drugs (including Levaquin) <http://www.certainadverseevents.com/home_page.html>
   6. On the “Purpose of Blog” section of his website, Mr. Fratti specifically asks for members of the media to reach out if they would like to raise awareness to his condition. This might be an interesting lead if you wanted to get more information about his specific circumstances and his experience in the litigation for the book.
   7. You can find John Fratti’s blog here:<http://www.levaquinadversesideeffect.com/purpose-of-blog/>
2. A website devoted to the victims of fluoroquinolone antibiotics (of which Levaquin is one) has a database of people who were harmed by the drug and another database of people who died from the drug. The databases appear to be user-generated so verification would likely require emailing the individual people who submitted the entries. There are several dozen victims listed and each link has a story about the person, what they are suffering from, and includes their email address.
   1. Most of the postings about injuries are from 2004-2005 but they range from a 16 year old girl who took Levaquin and collapsed in school to a 74 year old woman who took Levaquin and had both of the tendons in her legs rupture.
   2. There is also an “In Memoriam” section that lists nine people who are said to have died after taking Levaquin.
      1. One of the individuals is Paul Levine. Mr. Levine is said to have committed suicide as a result of the pain and insomnia resulting from a single dose of Levaquin.
      2. One of Paul’s friends is responsible for posting on the page and included a list of Paul’s posts on a Yahoo Fluoroquinolone board. From the posts, you can see his rising sense of helplessness as he suffers from insomnia, pain and anxiety. Included in the
      3. The specific page for Paul Levine is here: <http://fqframes.org/fqframes/index.htm>
   3. There are many sad stories on this website. I have not found any, however, where the victim discusses details of a lawsuit or settlement.
   4. Source: *http://fqframes.org/fqframes/index.htm.*