

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CLEVELAND COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel., MIKE HUNTER, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA,

Plaintiff.

v.

- (1) PURDUE PHARMA L.P.;
- (2) PURDUE PHARMA, INC.;
- (3) THE PURDUE FREDERICK COMPANY:
- (4) TEVA PHARMACEUTICALS USA, INC.;
- (5) CEPHALON, INC.;
- (6) JOHNSON & JOHNSON;
- (7) JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.;
- (8) ORTHO-McNEIL-JANSSEN
 PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., n/k/a
 JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.;
- (9) JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICA, INC., n/k/a JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.;
- (10) ALLERGAN, PLC, f/k/a ACTAVIS PLC, f/k/a ACTAVIS, INC., f/k/a WATSON PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.;
- (11) WATSON LABORATORIES, INC.;
- (12) ACTAVIS LLC; and
- (13) ACTAVIS PHARMA, INC., f/k/a WATSON PHARMA, INC.,

Defendants.

For Judge Balkman's Consideration

Case No. CJ-2017-816 Honorable Thad Balkman

William C. Hetherington Special Discovery Master

STATE OF OKLAHOMA S.S. CLEVELAND COUNTY S.S.

APR 26 2019

In the office of the Court Clerk MARILYN WILLIAMS

TEVA DEFENDANTS' AND ACTAVIS DEFENDANTS' MOTION IN LIMINE #3 TO IMPOSE RULES ON COURTROOM CONDUCT AND ESTABLISH TRIAL PROCEDURES

Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. ("Teva USA"), Cephalon, Inc. ("Cephalon"), Watson Laboratories, Inc. ("Watson"), Actavis LLC ("Actavis LLC"), and Actavis Pharma, Inc. ("Actavis Pharma")¹ move this Court to require all counsel in this matter to abide by the following rules and procedures in the conduct of this trial.

¹ Cephalon and Teva USA are referred to as the "Teva Defendants." Watson, Actavis, LLC, and Actavis Pharma are referred to as the "Actavis Defendants."

A. REFRAIN FROM ADDRESSING DEFENSE COUNSEL

At hearings in this case, counsel for the State has repeatedly addressed questions or statements directly to defense counsel. The local rules of many judicial districts expressly prohibit this type of practice. *See, e.g.,* Rules of the Seventh and Twenty-Sixth Judicial Districts, Rule 40(9), (10) (requiring attorneys to "[a]void personal references to opposing counsel" and "[a]ddress arguments to the judge or jury and not opposing counsel"); Rules of the Fourteenth Judicial District, Rule 9(2) ("Arguments shall be addressed to the Court and not to opposing counsel."). Further, the Oklahoma Evidence Code refers to the questioning of "witnesses," not counsel. 12 O.S. § 2611(A). The Court should instruct Plaintiff's counsel to refrain from directing questions, comments, or arguments to Defendants' counsel.

B. NO NEED FOR OBJECTIONS BY ALL DEFENDANTS

There are numerous Defendants in this case, with two separate sets of defense counsel. If the Court requires Defendants to make individual objections at trial to questioning, testimony, and exhibits, it will unnecessarily prolong the proceeding. In order to save time and avoid redundancy, Defendants ask that the Court adopt a rule deeming that an objection made by a single Defendant will be construed to be an objection on behalf of all Defendants.

C. REFRAIN FROM CHARACTERIZING PREVIOUS TESTIMONY

Counsel should not be permitted to characterize or criticize a witness's testimony. Nor should counsel be allowed to comment upon any differences between a witness's prior testimony and his or her testimony at trial. For example, counsel should be precluded from telling the witness that he or she has "already admitted" a fact or has "changed" his or her testimony. *Cf. Crider v. People*, 186 P.3d 39, 44 (Colo. 2008) (en banc) ("[T]here should be no question that it is improper in this jurisdiction for an attorney to characterize a witness's testimony . . . with any form of the word 'lie.""). A witness's prior testimony speaks for itself, and if counsel believes

there is a deviation from that testimony, the attorney may attempt to impeach the witness with the testimony without editorial comment.

D. REFRAIN FROM MAKING GENERAL REFERENCES TO "DEFENDANTS"

The State chose to bring claims against 13 separate Defendants, nine of whom remain as parties in this case. These are nine separate legal entities. Even those Defendants within the same corporate family are distinct entities who are not responsible for the actions of their affiliates. *See Kenkel v. Parker*, 2015 OK 81, ¶ 12, 362 P.3d 1145, 1149 ("A basic tenet of American corporate law is that the corporation and its shareholders are distinct, separate entities."); *Gilbert v. Sec. Fin. Corp. of Okla., Inc.*, 2006 OK 58, ¶ 22, 152 P.3d 165, 175 ("Corporations are distinct legal entities and generally one corporation will not be held responsible for the acts of another."), *abrogated on other grounds by Montgomery v. Airbus Helicopters, Inc.*, 2018 OK 17, 414 P.3d 824. The State has made no showing that the corporate veil of any of the Defendants should be pierced. The alleged liability for each Defendant must be determined based only on the actions of that Defendant. Accordingly, the Court should require the State to differentiate between Defendants during trial and refrain from referring generally to "Defendants" without specifying the "Defendant" or "Defendants" to whom they are referring.

E. OBTAIN APPROVAL OF DEMONSTRATIVE EXHIBITS OR "PROPS" PRIOR TO TRIAL

To avoid surprises and ensure the orderly conduct of the trial, the Court should require the parties to show any demonstrative exhibits or "props" to opposing counsel 10 days prior to trial. The importance of such a rule is demonstrated by the fact that some courts include such a provision in their standing orders. *See, e.g.*, Judge Daman Cantrell's form scheduling order, judgecantrell.com/images/SchedulingOrder2010.pdf (requiring all exhibits "including demonstrative exhibits" to be exchanged between the parties 10 days prior to trial). If there is an

objection, the party sponsoring the exhibit should be required to obtain Court approval prior to displaying it at trial.

Although such steps generally would not be necessary in a non-jury trial, the televised nature of this trial presents an atmosphere ripe for theatrics and grandstanding. Further, this trial should not be a tool to prejudice Defendants in the court of public opinion.

F. REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON ALLEGED DEFICIENCIES IN DEFENDANTS' CASE RESULTING FROM THWARTED DISCOVERY REQUESTS

Defendants have filed numerous motions to compel in this case. On some topics, the Court accepted the State's argument that discovery should not be allowed. The Court should prohibit the State's counsel from commenting regarding Defendants' failure to introduce evidence at trial when Defendants sought—but did not receive—discovery of the evidence at issue. For example, the State should not be permitted to argue Defendants failed to identify any patients who benefitted from opioids when it was the State who prevented Defendants from discovering the names of those patients. *See* The Teva Defs.' and Actavis Defs.' Motion in Limine #6 to Exclude Evidence Regarding or References to Individual Opioid Users, filed April 26, 2019.

The State should not be allowed to assert consequences arising from Defendants' products when the State prevented Defendants from discovering the truth. For instance, although the State speculates that Defendants' products caused Oklahomans to become addicted, the State refused to allow Defendants to find out if any patient taking Defendants' products were also in the poisoning database. As the State conceded, by using identifying numbers instead of patient names, the data could easily have been "cross walked" so that it would be known if a patient was in both databases. The State failed to provide this information despite Court orders to do so. *See*

The Teva Defs.' and Actavis Defs.' Motion in Limine #7 to Exclude Evidence Regarding the Alleged Consequences of These Defs.' Medicines, filed April 26, 2019.

As a corollary, the State should not be allowed to take advantage of the fact that only the State has access to the information. Indeed, the State may have looked at the cross walked data and, not liking the results, declined to provide it for that reason. For whatever, the State successfully refused to provide the data. Having done so, the State should not be allowed to employ the gamesmanship of asserting the patients that became addicted when the State's discovery positions prevented Defendants from learning the actual facts.

Similarly, the State asserts that Oklahoma doctors (a) did not understand that opioids were addictive, (b) did not understand the properties of the drugs they were prescribing and (c) were deceived into making prescriptions that were not necessary. However, because the State successfully refused to provide the names of the doctors at issue, the doctors were given no opportunity to defend themselves and their decision making. Similarly, Defendants were denied the opportunity to discover whether the allegations were true as to any particular doctor.

Had the doctors' names been provided, Defendants could easily have discovered whether the assertions were true as to any doctor. However, because the State adamantly refused to allow the discovery, the facts are known only to the State. It would be fundamentally unfair to allow the State to make assertions that the doctors did not understand or were deceived when the State systematically denied attempts to discover whether the assertions were true.

G. Inform witnesses of limine rulings

The Court should instruct counsel to inform all witnesses of the limine rulings in this case to ensure that they, too, adhere to the Court's rulings.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Teva Defendants and Actavis Defendants ask that the Court grant this Motion in Limine and adopt these rules of courtroom conduct and trial procedures.

Dated April 26, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was emailed this 26th day of April 2019, to the following:

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