

June 12, 2009

**Our Access to Justice Campaign is fighting to unseal and gain public access to evidence that Wyeth Pharmaceuticals has "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.** We've just filed briefs on behalf of *PLoS Medicine*, a medical journal published by the non-profit Public Library of Science, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas urging the court to unseal evidence that Wyeth routinely fails to disclose its role in preparing medical journal articles promoting Prempro and in recruiting academic authors to put their names on the articles for publication.



The ghostwriting evidence in the Prempro litigation, which is ongoing, is not publicly available due to a blanket confidentiality order that allows Wyeth to shield from public inspection any material that Wyeth itself deems to be "confidential." To gain access to these materials, Public Justice filed both a motion to intervene in this case, and a motion for public access to the materials involving Wyeth's ghostwriting, on behalf of PLoS Medicine. In its briefs in support of those motions, Public Justice explains 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.

"Wyeth can't keep these materials from the public unless it can show good cause for secrecy," explained Amy Radon, Public Justice's Goldberg, Waters & Kraus Fellow and lead attorney for *PLoS Medicine*. "We believe no good cause exists here, especially given the enormous public interest in these materials and the public health and safety concerns implicated when a drug company fails to reveal its role in authoring a medical journal article touting its own product."

*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 requested more information about the material as part of a congressional investigation into drug industry influence on doctors, according to the *Times* story.

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 read the *New York Times* article about Wyeth's ghostwriting campaign, [click here](#).

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

In addition to Radon, Public Justice's legal team consists of Public Justice Staff Attorney Leslie Brueckner and Morgan "Chip" Welch of Welch and Kitchens, LLC in North Little Rock, Ark. 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 service. 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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