

CRISIS AT HAND THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC



MANTIPLY LAW



What do a worker injured on the job, a teen having wisdom teeth removed, and a new mother recovering from a caesarean section have in common? Likely all will be prescribed opioids for pain management - powerful and potentially addictive medications like Oxycontin, Percocet, Lortab, and Vicodin. Why are so many doctors prescribing these highly addictive pills despite the dangers? The answer is simple: money. A 2017 study published in the American Journal of Public Health revealed that one out of every 12 American doctors has received at least one payment from an opioid pharmaceutical company. Of the top one percent of these physicians receiving payment from opioid producers - 681 doctors in total - received a total of more than \$38 million.



* "The Opioid Crisis in America's Workforce", Castlight Health, 2016

Alabama has the highest per capita level of prescription opioid use in the nation. Our doctors wrote 5.8 million prescriptions for pain pills in 2015, according to the C.D.C. That amounts to 1.2 prescriptions per person (the national average is 0.71). The State of Alabama and all of its Counties and Cities, and especially those with Colleges and Universities are experiencing the full impact. Early data from 2017 suggests that drug overdose deaths will continue to rise this year. It's the only aspect of American health that is getting significantly worse, according to the Director of the C.D.C. Over two million Americans are estimated to be dependent on opioids, and an additional 95 million used prescription painkillers in the past year — more than used tobacco.

The toll of drug abuse and addiction doesn't stop with the individual. Law enforcement relates a large percentage of the crimes they encounter daily to drugs and opioids in particular. There is no doubt that addiction has a tremendous economic impact on our State and its Counties, Cities, and Universities in terms of policing, prosecution, incarceration, hospital visits, ambulance rides, and rehab programs, not to mention missed workdays, lost job opportunities, and wasted talent.

The opioid epidemic is endangering families, threatening public safety and economic prosperity, and jeopardizing our very way of life. The strength of the Pharmaceutical Companies and their

lobbying efforts have compromised even the ability of the DEA to stop the illegal flow of opioids into our Country. The best remaining avenue to fight this epidemic is through our elected officials working with highly-qualified lawyers and experts to wage the war within our Court System. Our Team stands ready to begin the legal battle and to achieve these goals:

- Stop the Opioid manufacturers from financially benefitting from turning a blind-eye to their millions of pills being illegally dumped in our State each month;
- Stop the Opioid manufacturers and its sales and distribution middlemen from engaging in conduct that amounts to bribing doctors to knowingly over-prescribe their pills and addict our citizens;
- Stop the Pill-Mill doctors from accepting bribes from Big Pharma and its middlemen for over-prescribing opioids and stop the co-conspirator Pharmacists from turning a blind eye to the over-filling of prescriptions.

These efforts are not to punish the family doctor or the Mom and Pop pharmacy around the corner—our efforts are directed at Pill-Mill doctors and pharmacists who write and fill prescriptions for 1,000's of opioids each month to a single person. Many of these Pill-Mill doctors and pharmacists in Alabama are currently under criminal indictment.



Why Choose Us? Because we're into the details

Unparalleled experience & track record

Our team of lawyers and financial analysts have the experience and expertise needed to file and thoroughly prosecute lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, their middlemen, the doctors running the Pill-Mills and the willing pharmacies - all conspiring together to damage our communities for their own financial benefit. It is our goal to recover for our clients the hundreds of millions of public dollars that are spent fighting the effects of these wrongful acts. Employing state-of-the-art research and financial analysis technology, our team can calculate and provide the legal evidence necessary to support the rendering of a verdict for full amounts of all monetary damages our communities are experiencing. We will seek compensatory and punitive damage awards that are substantial enough to make even the largest Pharmaceutical Company decide that it's just too expensive to tortiously injure and kill our residents, bribe our Doctors, and engage in illegal conspiracies in Alabama. Nothing short of making it highly unprofitable will stop these Corporations from continuing on their course of conduct. Together, we can make this happen and keep our heartland from becoming a wasteland.

Our Team

LEAD LITIGATOR. MARY BETH MANTIPLY HAS SERVED THE LEGAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, BUSINESSES, NONPROFITS AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES IN ALABAMA SINCE HER GRADUATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW, REPRESENTING HUNDREDS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CLIENTS IN CIVIL CASES OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS.



Mantipty has represented the City of Mobile, the Mobile County Commission, and the Mobile County Sheriff's Office in numerous cases in both State and Federal Courts, was an Administrative Law Judge for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and a Deputy Attorney General.

Mantipty has obtained 8-figure settlements and verdicts for her clients in mediations, arbitrations and trials. In 2015, Mantipty obtained a \$7.1 million dollar award for the City of Mobile for its damages arising out of the 2010 BP Oil Spill. The City of Mobile's Mayor, Sandy Stimpson, said, "I'm real excited about it, I think it's the largest settlement that any municipality has received along the Gulf Coast."

Other areas of Mantipty's legal focus over the years have included mass torts and complex litigation, claims for defective drugs and medical devices, environmental issues and insurance coverage.

Mantipty's career and legal passion have been shaped by several tragedies that occurred over the years. She personally witnessed the life-altering impacts that globally produced defective products, devices and drugs, including opioids, can have on families, friends, and neighbors.

First, a loved one became a quadriplegic due to a defectively designed GM Van; another died due to a defective dialysis system; and now several friends' College-student children, the very apples of their eyes, have struggled with and still struggle with opioid addiction. The fortunate parents found out in time, intervened and sent their children to various Rehabilitation Clinics, mostly with success, but often draining all retirement funds saved over a life-time. The not-so-lucky parents found out about the addiction after their precious child's death - not much that can happen is more heartbreaking than to lose your child.

These unnecessary deaths of some of the next generation's best and brightest, caused by the greed and lawlessness of Big Pharma, its middlemen, and the co-conspirator Pill-Mill doctors and pharmacies, must be stopped. Just like the legal profession taught BP that cutting safety corners to save a buck will end up being highly unprofitable in Alabama, Big Pharma must be taught that its illegal conduct and those of its henchmen will not be tolerated and will in the end, cost them dearly. The dedicated efforts of seasoned trial lawyers and highly qualified support staff and financial analysts are the best team to make certain that Big Pharma learns its lesson - that greed and lawlessness will come with a very expensive price tag in Alabama. We believe our team is more than ready to accomplish this task.

Litigation Support & Financial Analysis

Mantiply Law has partnered with Navigant Consulting, a leader in financial analysis and compliance, to provide assistance in determining the true cost of this crisis.

Leveraging external expertise in complex accounting and transaction advisory can enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the legal team's case analysis and trial presentation. With deep industry knowledge and a proven track record, Navigant is well-positioned to work alongside our legal team through this complex process of trial preparation and presentation of proof.



Sonya S. Kwon, M.B.A.

Managing Director

Sonya has over 18 years of experience leading data intensive matters including TCPA matters, overdraft fee litigation matters, regulatory and governmental investigations, healthcare litigation, employment wage and hour disputes, consumer class action suits, financial and accounting investigations, consumer protection, entertainment royalty and FCPA audits, and other cases requiring the analysis of systems, structured data, or complex data modeling.



Raman Mandapaka, Ph.D.

Director

Raman has over 18 years of experience consulting to large scale financial institutions, law-firms, and regulatory agencies on a wide range of risk management issues including loan and securities accounting implementation, regulatory capital and Basel II, market and credit risk analytics, and model risk management.

In addition, he is an expert in fair lending analytics involving all asset classes including Indirect Auto, Credit Cards, Student Loans, and Mortgages.



Jonathan W. Pirie, CVA, CFE

Associate Director

Jonathan has 12 years of experience in various aspects of forensic accounting. He has worked across a wide array of sectors including energy, utilities, mining, oil & gas, steel, bottling, hospitality, among others.

Jonathan's expertise includes loss of profit calculations, valuations, fraud investigation, and due diligence where he continues to provide high-level consulting services with a focus on technical analyses.



But there is much more work to do. The epidemic of addiction calls for a cohesive and multi-pronged approach that includes law enforcement, public health, and community-based initiatives. It calls for a bipartisan solution - An Alabama Solution. Substantial monetary damages recovered through the legal system from those causing our State such grave injury can be used to fund programs like these and more, to start helping our communities heal.

- Improving and strengthening the process of **"warm handoffs"**, so that patients who seek emergency care for drug-related health issues are automatically connected with a drug treatment provider upon release.
- Increasing and expanding **access to recovery programs** be they in-patient treatment, sober living facilities, medication-assisted programs, or behavioral therapy.
- Promoting **research** into less addictive pain medications, some of which is currently underway right here in Alabama.
- Supporting **increased educational opportunities** for prescribers as well as exploring new and non-pharmaceutical alternatives for managing pain.
- Ensuring health **regulatory** bodies have the tools and **resources** they need to shut down unscrupulous prescribers.
- Further **empowering the faith community** to take an increased role in the fight against addiction and finding more effective ways to help individuals turn their lives around.
- Supporting economic investment and job opportunities, as well as **career-training and after-school programs** to keep young people on the right track to begin with.

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Mantipty Law welcomes your calls, letters, and electronic mail. However, merely contacting Mantipty Law does not create an attorney-client relationship. Therefore, please refrain from sending any confidential information until such time as an attorney-client relationship has been established. Hiring a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon written information contained in this material concerning qualifications and experience. "No representation, herein, is made that the quality of the legal service to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."