

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**JULIE M. SEGREAVES and JOHN G.
SEGREAVES, wife and husband,**

Plaintiffs

v.

**JOHNSON & JOHNSON; JOHNSON &
JOHNSON CONSUMER COMPANIES,
INC.; IMERYS TALC AMERICA, INC.;
F/K/A LUZENAC AMERICA, INC.;
PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS
COUNCIL F/K/A COSMETIC TOILETRY
AND FRAGRANCE ASSOCIATION
(CTFA); JOHN DOES/JANE DOES 1-30;
UNKNOWN BUSINESSES AND/OR
CORPORATIONS 1-50,**

Defendants.

Civil Action No.

MDL # 2738

Plaintiffs Julie M. Segreaves and John G. Segreaves by and through undersigned counsel, file this Complaint against these Defendants, Johnson & Johnson; Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc.; Imerys Talc America, Inc., f/k/a Luzenac America, Inc.; Personal Care Products Council f/k/a Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrance Association (CTFA); John Does/ Jane Does 1-30; and Unknown Businesses and/or Corporations 1-50, alleging the following upon information and belief (including investigation made by and through Plaintiffs' counsel), except those allegations that pertain to Plaintiff, which are based on personal knowledge:

I. Introduction

1. This action arises out of the Plaintiff Julie Segreaves' diagnosis of ovarian cancer, which was directly and proximately caused by her regular and prolonged use of talcum powder containing products known as Johnson & Johnson Baby Powder and Shower to Shower (hereinafter "the PRODUCTS") in the perineal area. Plaintiff's damages are a direct and proximate result of Defendants' and/or their corporate predecessors negligent, willful, and wrongful conduct in connection with the design, development, manufacture, testing, packaging, promoting, marketing, distribution, labeling, and/or sale of the PRODUCTS.

II. Parties, Venue and Jurisdiction

2. This is an action for damages that exceeds the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

3. Jurisdiction in this case is based on diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Plaintiffs are citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Defendants are completely diverse corporate citizens of other states. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) (2) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred within this judicial district.

5. This suit is brought under the New Jersey Products Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-1, et seq., the New Jersey Punitive Damages Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:15-5.9, et seq., and the common law of the State of New Jersey and the statutory and common law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to recover damages and other relief, including the costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' and expert fees, for the injuries Plaintiffs sustained as a result of the Defendants' and/or their corporate predecessors' negligent and wrongful conduct in connection

with the design, development, formulation, manufacturing, testing, packaging, promoting, marketing, distributing, labeling and/or sale of the PRODUCTS.

6. Julie Segreaves was born in 1961, and began using the PRODUCTS on a continuous basis since birth throughout the state of Pennsylvania. As a direct and proximate result of using the PRODUCTS, Julie Segreaves was diagnosed with ovarian cancer on or around December 15, 2014 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

7. Plaintiff Julie Segreaves is an adult and citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Plaintiff John Segreaves is an adult and citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

8. The Defendant, Johnson & Johnson, is a New Jersey corporation with its principal place of business in the State of New Jersey. At all pertinent times, Johnson & Johnson was engaged in the business of manufacturing, marketing, testing, promoting, selling, and/or distributing the PRODUCTS. At all pertinent times, Johnson & Johnson regularly transacted, solicited, and conducted business in the State of New Jersey, including the marketing, promoting, selling, and/or distribution of the PRODUCTS.

9. Johnson & Johnson may be served with process by serving its registered agent, M. H. Ullmann at One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08933.

10. The Defendant, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. is a New Jersey corporation with its principal place of business in the State of New Jersey. At all pertinent times, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., was engaged in the business of manufacturing marketing, testing, promoting, selling, and/or distributing the PRODUCTS. At all pertinent times, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., regularly transacted, solicited, and

conducted business in the State of New Jersey, including the marketing, promoting selling, and/or distribution of the PRODUCTS.

11. Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. may be served with process of this Court via service on its registered agent, Johnson & Johnson, located at One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08933-0000.

12. Defendants Johnson & Johnson and Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., have, at all pertinent times, engaged in the business of designing, developing, licensing, manufacturing, distributing, selling, marketing, and/or introducing into interstate commerce, and into the State of New Jersey, either directly or indirectly through third parties or related entities, the PRODUCTS at issue in this Complaint.

13. At all pertinent times, Defendant Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., has been a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Johnson & Johnson, under the complete dominion of and control of Defendant Johnson & Johnson. Hereinafter, unless otherwise delineated, these two entities shall be collectively referred to as the “Johnson & Johnson Defendants.”

14. The Defendant, Imerys Talc America, Inc., f/k/a Luzenac America, Inc., is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in the State of California. Imerys Talc America, Inc. does not maintain a registered agent and, therefore, may be served with process of this Court via service at its principal place of business located at Imerys Talc America, Inc., 1732 N 1st Street, Suite 450 San Jose, CA 95154.

15. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc America, Inc., f/k/a Luzenac America, Inc., has been in the business of mining and distributing talcum powder for use in talcum powder based products, including the PRODUCTS. Imerys Talc is the successor or continuation of

Luzenac America, Inc., and Imerys Talc America, Inc. is legally responsible for all liabilities incurred when it was known as Luzenac America, Inc.

16. The Defendant, Personal Care Products Council (“PCPC”), f/k/a Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrance Association (“CTFA”), is a corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, with its principal place of business in the District of Columbia. Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrance Association (CTFA) n/k/a Personal Care Products Council does not maintain a registered agent and, therefore, may be served with process of this Court via service at its principal place of business located at Personal Care Products Council, 1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1200, Washington, District of Columbia 20036. PCPC is the successor or continuation of CTFA and PCPC is legally responsible for all liabilities incurred when it was known as CTFA.

17. Defendants John Does/ Jane Does 1-30 are those persons, agents, employees, and/or representatives of Defendants whose conduct as described herein caused or contributed to the damages of the Plaintiffs, all of whose names and legal identities are unknown to the Plaintiffs at this time, but will be substituted by amendment when ascertained, individually and jointly.

18. Defendants Unknown Businesses and/or Corporations 1-50 are unknown entities whose conduct as described herein caused or contributed to the damages of the Plaintiffs, all of whose names and legal identities are unknown to the Plaintiffs at this time, but will be substituted by amendment when ascertained, individually and jointly.

III. Factual Background

19. Talc is a magnesium trisilicate and is mined from the earth. Talc is an inorganic mineral. The Defendant, Imerys Talc America, Inc., f/k/a Luzenac America, Inc., mined the talc contained in the PRODUCTS.

20. Talc is the main substance in talcum powders. The Johnson & Johnson Defendants manufactured the PRODUCTS. The PRODUCTS are composed almost entirely of talc.

21. At all pertinent times, a feasible alternative to the PRODUCTS has existed. Cornstarch is an organic carbohydrate that is quickly broken down by the body with no known health effects. Cornstarch powders have been sold and marketed for the same uses with nearly the same effectiveness.

22. Imerys Talc¹ has continually advertised and marketed talc as safe for human use.

23. Imerys Talc supplies customers with material safety data sheets for talc. These material safety data sheets are supposed to convey adequate health and warning information to its customers.

24. Historically, “Johnson’s Baby Powder” has been a symbol of freshness, cleanliness, and purity. During the time in question, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants advertised and marketed this product as the beacon of “freshness” and “comfort”, eliminating friction on the skin, absorbing “excess wetness” helping keep skin feeling dry and comfortable, and “clinically proven gentle and mild”. The Johnson & Johnson Defendants compelled women through advertisements to dust themselves with this product to mask odors. The bottle of

¹ All allegations regarding actions taken by Imerys Talc also include actions taken while that entity was known as Luzenac America, Inc.

“Johnson’s Baby Powder” specifically targets women by stating, “For you, use every day to help feel soft, fresh, and comfortable.”

25. During the time in question, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants advertised and marketed the product “Shower to Shower” as safe for use by women as evidenced in its slogan “A sprinkle a day keeps odor away”, and through advertisements such as “Your body perspires in more places than just under your arms. Use SHOWER to SHOWER to feel dry, fresh, and comfortable throughout the day.” And “SHOWER to SHOWER can be used all over your body.”

26. The Plaintiff used the PRODUCTS to dust her perineum for feminine hygiene purposes for much of her adult life. This was an intended and foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS based on the advertising, marketing, and labeling of the PRODUCTS.

27. On December 15, 2014, Plaintiff Julie Segreaves was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. At the time of her diagnosis the Plaintiff was fifty-three years old.

28. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants’ calculated and reprehensible conduct, Julie Segreaves developed ovarian cancer, which required medical treatment.

29. In 1971, the first study was conducted that suggested an association between talc and ovarian cancer. This study was conducted by Dr. WJ Henderson and others in Cardiff, Wales.

30. In 1982, the first epidemiologic study was performed on talc powder use in the female genital area. This study was conducted by Dr. Daniel Cramer and others. This study found a 92% increased risk in ovarian cancer with women who reported genital talc use. Shortly after this study was published, Dr. Bruce Semple of Johnson & Johnson came and visited Dr. Cramer about his study. Dr. Cramer advised Dr. Semple that Johnson & Johnson should place a

warning on its talcum powders about the ovarian cancer risks so that women can make an informed decision about their health.

31. Since 1982, there have been approximately twenty-two (22) additional epidemiologic studies providing data regarding the association of talc and ovarian cancer. Nearly all of these studies have reported an elevated risk for ovarian cancer associated with genital talc use in women.

32. In 1993, the United States National Toxicology Program published a study on the toxicity of non-asbestiform talc and found clear evidence of carcinogenic activity. Talc was found to be a carcinogen, with or without the presence of asbestos-like fibers.

33. In response to the United States National Toxicology Program's study, the Cosmetic Toiletry and Fragrance Association (CTFA) formed the Talc Interested Party Task Force (TIPTF). Johnson & Johnson, Inc., Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc. and Luzenac were members of the CTFA and were the primary actors and contributors of the TIPTF. The stated purpose of the TIPTF was to pool financial resources of these companies in an effort to collectively defend talc use at all costs and to prevent regulation of any type over this industry. The TIPTF hired scientists to perform biased research regarding the safety of talc, members of the TIPTF edited scientific reports of the scientists hired by this group prior the submission of these scientific reports to governmental agencies, members of the TIPTF knowingly released false information about the safety of talc to the consuming public, and used political and economic influence on regulatory bodies regarding talc. All of these activities have been well coordinated and planned by these companies and organizations over the past four (4) decades in an effort to prevent regulation of talc and to create confusion to the consuming public about the true hazards of talc relative to ovarian cancer.

34. On November 10, 1994, the Cancer Prevention Coalition mailed a letter to then Johnson & Johnson C.E.O, Ralph Larson, informing his company that studies as far back as 1960's "... show[] conclusively that the frequent use of talcum powder in the genital area pose[] a serious health risk of ovarian cancer." The letter cited a recent study by Dr. Bernard Harlow from Harvard Medical School confirming this fact and quoted a portion of the study where Dr. Harlow and his colleagues discouraged the use of talc in the female genital area. The letter further stated that 14,000 women per year die from ovarian cancer and that this type of cancer is very difficult to detect and has a low survival rate. The letter concluded by requesting that Johnson & Johnson withdraw talc products from the market because of the alternative of cornstarch powders, or at a minimum, place warning information on its talc-based body powders about ovarian cancer risk they pose.

35. In 1996, the condom industry stopped dusting condoms with talc due to the health concerns of ovarian cancer.

36. In February of 2006, the International Association for the Research of Cancer (IARC) part of the World Health Organization published a paper whereby they classified perineal use of talc based body powder as a "Group 2B" human carcinogen. IARC which is universally accepted as the international authority on cancer issues, concluded that studies from around the world consistently found an increased risk of ovarian cancer in women from perineal use of talc. IARC found that between 16-52% of women in the world were using talc to dust their perineum and found an increased risk of ovarian cancer in women talc users ranging from 30-60%. IARC concluded with this "Evaluation": "There is limited evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of perineal use of talc-based body powder." By definition "Limited evidence of carcinogenicity" means "a positive association has been observed between exposure to the agent

and cancer for which a causal interpretation is considered by the Working Group to be credible, but chance, bias or confounding could not be ruled out with reasonable confidence.”

37. In approximately 2006, the Canadian government under The Hazardous Products Act and associated Controlled Products Regulations classified talc as a “D2A”, “very toxic”, “cancer causing” substance under its Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). Asbestos is also classified as “D2A”.

38. In 2006, Imerys Talc began placing a warning on its Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) it provided to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants regarding the talc it sold to them to be used in the PRODUCTS. These MSDSs not only provided the warning information about the IARC classification but also included warning information regarding “States Rights to Know” and warning information about the Canadian Government’s “D2A” classification of talc as well.

39. The Defendants had a duty to know and warn about the hazards associated with the use of the PRODUCTS.

40. The Defendants failed to inform its customers and end users of the PRODUCTS of a known catastrophic health hazard associated with the use of its products.

41. In addition, the Defendants procured and disseminated false, misleading, and biased information regarding the safety of the PRODUCTS to the public and used influence over governmental and regulatory bodies regarding talc.

42. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants’ calculated and reprehensible conduct, Plaintiff was injured and suffered damages, namely ovarian cancer, which required treatment.

FEDERAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

43. Upon information and belief, the Defendants have or may have failed to comply with all federal standards and requirements applicable to the sale of the PRODUCTS including, but not limited to, violations of various sections and subsections of the United States Code and the Code of Federal Regulations.

COUNT ONE – PRODUCT LIABILITY ACT – FAILURE TO WARN

(N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-1, et seq.)

(Imerys Talc and Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

44. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

45. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc mined and sold talc to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants, which it knew that Johnson & Johnson was then packaging and selling to consumers as the PRODUCTS and it knew that consumers of the PRODUCTS were using it to powder their perineal regions.

46. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc knew and/or should have known of the unreasonably dangerous and carcinogenic nature of the talc it was selling to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants, especially when used in a woman's perineal regions, and it knew or should have known that Johnson & Johnson was not warning its consumers of this danger.

47. At all pertinent times, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants were manufacturing, marketing, testing, promoting, selling and/or distributing the PRODUCTS in the regular course of business.

48. At all pertinent times, Plaintiff used the PRODUCTS to powder her perineal area, which is a reasonably foreseeable use.

49. At all pertinent times, all Defendants in this action knew or should have known that the use of talcum powder based products in the perineal area significantly increases the risk of ovarian cancer based upon scientific knowledge dating back to the 1960s.

50. At all pertinent times, including the time of sale and consumption, the PRODUCTS, when put to the aforementioned reasonably foreseeable use, were in an unreasonably dangerous and defective condition because they failed to contain adequate and proper warnings and/or instructions regarding the increased risk of ovarian cancer associated with the use of the PRODUCTS by women to powder their perineal area. Defendants themselves failed to properly and adequately warn and instruct Plaintiff as to the risks and benefits of the PRODUCTS given Plaintiff's need for this information.

51. Had the Plaintiff received a warning that the use of the PRODUCTS would have significantly increased her risk of ovarian cancer, she would not have used the same. As a proximate result of Defendants' design, manufacture, marketing, sale, and distribution of the PRODUCTS, Plaintiff has been severely injured and has been caused to endure permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care, comfort and economic damages.

52. The development of ovarian cancer by the Plaintiff was the direct and proximate result of the unreasonably dangerous and defective condition of the PRODUCTS at the time of sale and consumption, including their lack of warnings; Plaintiff, has suffered injuries and damages, including but not limited to conscious pain and suffering, medical expenses and loss of enjoyment of life.

53. The Defendants' products were defective because they failed to contain warnings and/or instructions, and breached express warranties and/or failed to conform to other express factual representation upon which the Plaintiff justifiably relied in electing to use the products. The defect or defects made the products unreasonably dangerous to those persons, such as Plaintiff, who could reasonably be expected to use and rely upon such products. As a result, the defect or defects were a producing cause of the Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

54. The Defendants' products failed to contain, and continue to this day not to contain, adequate warnings and/or instructions regarding the increased risk of ovarian cancer with the use of their products by women. The Defendants continue to market, advertise, and expressly represent to the general public that it is safe for women to use their product regardless of application. These Defendants continue with these marketing and advertising campaigns despite having scientific knowledge that dates back to the 1960's that their products increase the risk of ovarian cancer in women when used in the perineal area. Therefore, the Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs for their wrongful conduct under the doctrine of Strict Liability in Tort pursuant to the New Jersey Product Liability Act, N.J.S.A 2A:58C-1, et seq.

55. In the alternative, Plaintiffs plead the analogous Pennsylvania statute and/or common law cause of action for Failure to Warn.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Imerys Talc and the Johnson & Johnson Defendants in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00 together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT TWO – PRODUCTS LIABILITY ACT – DEFECTIVE MANUFACTURE AND DESIGN (N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-1, et seq.)

(Imerys Talc and Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

56. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference every allegation of this Complaint as if each were set forth fully and completely herein.

57. Defendants' PRODUCTS were defectively and improperly manufactured, rendering the products deficient and unreasonably dangerous and hazardous to Plaintiff.

58. Defendants' PRODUCTS are inherently dangerous and defective, unfit and unsafe for their intended and reasonably foreseeable uses, and do not meet or perform to the expectations of consumers.

59. The PRODUCTS at issue create risks to the health and safety of the consumers that are far more significant and devastating than the risks posed by other products on the market used for the same therapeutic purposes. There is a feasible and reasonable alternative design.

60. Defendants have intentionally and recklessly designed, manufactured, marketed, labeled, sold and distributed the PRODUCTS with wanton and willful disregard for the rights and health of Plaintiff and others, and with malice, placing their economic interests above the health and safety of Plaintiff and others similarly situated.

61. As a proximate result of Defendants' design, manufacture, labeling, marketing, sale and distribution of the PRODUCTS, Plaintiff has been injured catastrophically and sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care, comfort, and economic damages.

62. Defendants are strictly liable in tort to Plaintiffs for their wrongful conduct pursuant to the New Jersey Product Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-1, et seq.

63. In the alternative, Plaintiffs plead the analogous Pennsylvania statute and/or common law cause of action for defective manufacture and design.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory damages, punitive damages, interest, attorneys' fees, costs of suit, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT THREE – PRODUCTS LIABILITY ACT

(Imerys Talc)

64. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

65. At all pertinent times, Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care to consumers, including Plaintiffs herein, in the design, development, manufacture, testing, inspection, packaging, promotion, marketing, distribution, labeling and/or sale of the PRODUCTS.

66. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc mined and sold talc to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants, which it knew or should have known was then being packaged and sold to consumers as the PRODUCTS by the Johnson & Johnson Defendants. Further, Imerys Talc knew or should have known that consumers of the PRODUCTS were using it to powder their perineal regions.

67. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc knew or should have known that the use of talcum powder based products in the perineal area significantly increases the risk of ovarian cancer based upon scientific knowledge dating back to the 1960s.

68. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc knew or should have known that Johnson & Johnson was not providing warnings to consumers of the PRODUCTS of the risk of ovarian cancer posed by talc contained therein.

69. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc was negligent in providing talc to the Johnson & Johnson Defendants, when it knew or should have known that the talc would be used in the PRODUCTS, without adequately taking steps to ensure that ultimate consumers of the PRODUCTS, including Plaintiff, received the information that Imerys Talc possessed on the carcinogenic properties of talc, including its risk of causing ovarian cancer.

70. Defendants breached their duty of reasonable care to Plaintiffs in that they negligently designed, developed, manufactured, tested, inspected, packaged, promoted, marketed, distributed, labeled, and/or sold the subject product.

71. As a direct and proximate result of Imerys Talc's negligence, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused her to develop ovarian cancer and suffer excruciating pain and suffering, emotional distress, incur medical bills, and loss of the enjoyment and impairment of the quality of life.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Imerys Talc in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT FOUR – PRODUCTS LIABILITY ACT

(Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

72. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

73. The Johnson & Johnson Defendants were negligent in marketing, designing, manufacturing, producing, supplying, inspecting, testing, selling and/or distributing the PRODUCTS in one or more of the following respects:

- In failing to warn Plaintiff of the hazards associated with the use of the PRODUCTS;
- In failing to properly test their products to determine adequacy and effectiveness or safety measures, if any, prior to releasing the PRODUCTS for consumer use;
- In failing to properly test their products to determine the increased risk of ovarian cancer during the normal and/or intended use of the PRODUCTS;
- In failing to inform ultimate users, such as Plaintiff as to the safe and proper methods of handling and using the PRODUCTS;
- In failing to remove the PRODUCTS from the market when the Defendants knew or should have known the PRODUCTS were defective;
- In failing to instruct the ultimate users, such as Plaintiff, as to the methods for reducing the type of exposure to the PRODUCTS which caused increased risk of ovarian cancer;
- In failing to inform the public in general and the Plaintiff in particular of the known dangers of using the PRODUCTS for dusting the perineum;
- In failing to advise users how to prevent or reduce exposure that caused increased risk for ovarian cancer;
- In marketing and labeling the PRODUCTS as safe for all uses despite knowledge to the contrary.
- In failing to act like a reasonably prudent company under similar circumstances.

Each and all of these acts and omissions, taken singularly or in combination, were a proximate cause of the injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiffs.

74. At all pertinent times, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS were unreasonably dangerous and defective when put to their reasonably anticipated use.

75. As a direct and proximate result of the Johnson & Johnson Defendants' negligence in one or more of the aforementioned ways, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused her to develop ovarian cancer and suffer excruciating pain and suffering, emotional distress, incur medical bills, and loss of the enjoyment and impairment of the quality of life.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT FIVE – BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY

(Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

76. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

77. The Johnson & Johnson Defendants expressly warranted, through direct-to-consumer marketing, advertisements, and labels, that the PRODUCTS were safe and effective for reasonably anticipated uses, including use by women in the perineal area.

78. The PRODUCTS did not conform to these express representations because they cause serious injury when used by women in the perineal area in the form of ovarian cancer. Defendants' breaches constitute violations of Common Law principles and N.J.S.A. 12A:2-313,

et seq. In the alternative, Plaintiffs plead the analogous Pennsylvania statute and/or common law cause of action for breach of express warranty.

79. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' breach of warranty, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused her to develop ovarian cancer and suffer excruciating pain and suffering, emotional distress, incur medical bills, lost wages, and loss of the enjoyment and impairment of the quality of life.

80. Defendants designed, manufactured, assembled, fabricated and/or distributed the products in question in a defective condition and therefore breached an implied warranty of fitness and an implied warranty of merchantability, in addition to various express warranties. The Defendants, as sellers, were merchants with respect to the products which they sold. In addition, these products were not fit for the ordinary purposes for which such goods are used. The Defendants also had reason to know of the particular purpose for which these products would be used, as well as the knowledge that persons such as Plaintiff would rely on the seller's skill to furnish suitable products.

81. Therefore, the Defendants have breached the implied warranty of merchantability as well as the implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose, in addition to various express warranties. Such breach or breaches of implied and express warranties by the Defendants was a proximate cause of the injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT SIX – BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES

(Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

82. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

83. At the time the Defendants manufactured, marketed, labeled, promoted, distributed and/or sold the PRODUCTS, the Johnson & Johnson Defendants knew of the uses for which the PRODUCTS were intended, including use by women in the perineal area, and impliedly warranted the PRODUCTS to be of merchantable quality and safe for such use.

84. Defendants breached their implied warranties of the PRODUCTS sold to Plaintiff because they were not fit for their common, ordinary and intended uses, including use by women in the perineal area, in violation of Common Law principles and N.J.S.A. 12A:2-314, et seq. In the alternative, Plaintiff pleads the analogous Pennsylvania statute and/or common law cause of action for breach of implied warranties.

85. As a direct, foreseeable and proximate result of the Defendants' breaches of implied warranties, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused her to develop ovarian cancer and suffer excruciating pain and suffering, emotional distress, incur medical bills, and loss of the enjoyment and impairment of the quality of life.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

**COUNT SEVEN –PUNITIVE DAMAGES UNDER COMMON LAW, PUNITIVE
DAMAGES ACT (N.J.S.A. 2A:15-5.9, ET SEQ.) AND PRODUCT LIABILITY ACT
(N.J.S.A. 2A:58C-1 ET SEQ.)**

(All Defendants)

86. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

87. Plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages because Defendants' wrongful acts and/or omissions were wanton or in conscious disregard of the rights of others. Defendants misled both the medical community and the public at large, including Plaintiff, by making false representations about the safety and utility of the PRODUCTS and by failing to provide adequate instructions concerning their use.

88. The Defendants have acted willfully, wantonly, with an evil motive, and recklessly in one or more of the following ways:

- a. Defendants knew of the unreasonably high risk of ovarian cancer posed by the PRODUCTS before manufacturing, marketing, distributing and/or selling the PRODUCTS, yet purposefully proceeded with such action;
- b. Despite their knowledge of the high risk of ovarian cancer associated with the PRODUCTS, Defendants affirmatively minimized this risk through marketing and promotional efforts and product labeling;
- c. Through the actions outlined above, Defendants expressed a reckless indifference to the safety of users of the PRODUCTS and the Plaintiff. Defendants' conduct, as described herein, knowing the dangers and risks of the PRODUCTS, yet concealing and/or omitting this information, in

furtherance of their conspiracy and concerted action was outrageous because of Defendants' evil motive or a reckless indifference to the safety of users of the PRODUCTS.

89. The Defendants' conduct was a conscious disregard for the rights, safety and welfare of the Plaintiff. The Defendants acted with willful and wanton disregard for the safety of the Plaintiff. The Defendants' conduct constitutes gross negligence. Defendants' gross negligence was a proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries, and as such the Defendants are liable for exemplary and punitive damages.

90. The Defendants, Johnson & Johnson and Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., have a pattern and practice of this type of conduct. Specifically, these Defendants built their company on the credo, "We believe our first responsibility is to the doctors, nurses, and patients, to mothers and fathers and all others who use our products and services." The Defendants placed emphasis on shareholders believing that if they take care of everything the ethical and correct way profits will follow. However, over the past few decades, the Defendants have sharply deviated from their original credo, and instituted a corporate pattern and practice of placing profits over the health and well-being of its customers as evidence in the Propulsid litigation, Ortho Evra litigation, 2006 Pennsylvania Tylenol litigation, 2006 TMAP investigation, and 2007 violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

91. The above listed evidence indicates a pattern and practice of the Defendants, Johnson & Johnson and Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., to place corporate profits over health and well-being of its customers. Such a pattern and practice has been followed by the Defendants regarding "Johnson's Baby Powder" and "Shower to Shower".

92. All of the Defendants have been aware for nearly forty (40) years of independent scientific studies linking the use of their products to the increased risk of ovarian cancer in women when used in the perineal area. Despite this overwhelming body of evidence all of the Defendants have failed to inform their consumers of this known hazard. As such, all of the Defendants should be liable for punitive damages to the Plaintiffs.

93. As a direct and proximate result of the willful, wanton, evilly motivated and/or reckless conduct of the Defendants, the Plaintiffs have sustained damages as set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment for punitive damages against all Defendants, each of them, in a fair and reasonable amount sufficient to punish Defendants and deter them and others from engaging in similar conduct in the future, costs expended herein, and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT EIGHT – VIOLATIONS OF CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS

(Imerys Talc and Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

94. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation of this Complaint as if each were set forth fully and completely herein.

95. Plaintiff purchased and used Defendants' PRODUCTS primarily for personal use and thereby suffered ascertainable losses as a result of Defendants' actions in violation of the consumer protection laws.

96. Had Defendants not engaged in the deceptive conduct described herein, Plaintiff would not have purchased and/or paid for Defendants' PRODUCTS, and would not have incurred related medical costs and injury.

97. Defendants engaged in wrongful conduct while at the same time obtaining, under false pretenses, moneys from Plaintiff for the PRODUCTS that would not have been paid had Defendants not engaged in unfair and deceptive conduct.

98. Defendants engaged in unfair methods of competition and deceptive acts or practices that were proscribed by law, including the following:

- Representing that goods or services have characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities that they do not have;
- Advertising goods or services with the intent not to sell them as advertised; and
- Engaging in fraudulent or deceptive conduct that creates a likelihood of confusion or misunderstanding.

99. Plaintiff was injured by the cumulative and indivisible nature of Defendants' conduct. The cumulative effect of Defendants' conduct directed at Plaintiff and consumers was to create demand for and sell the PRODUCTS. Each aspect of Defendants' conduct combined to artificially create sales of the PRODUCTS.

100. Defendants have a statutory duty to refrain from unfair or deceptive acts or trade practices in the design, labeling, development, manufacture, promotion, and sale of the PRODUCTS.

101. Had Defendants not engaged in the deceptive conduct described above, Plaintiff would not have purchased and/or paid for the PRODUCTS, and would not have incurred related medical costs.

102. Defendants' deceptive, unconscionable, or fraudulent representations and material omissions to Plaintiff, physicians and consumers constituted unfair and deceptive acts and trade practices in violation of the state consumer protection statutes listed.

103. Defendants' actions, as complained of herein, constitute unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, deceptive or fraudulent acts, or trade practices in violation of state consumer protection statutes, as listed below.

104. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or trade practices or have made false representations in violation of N.J.S.A. 56:8-1, et seq. In the alternative, Plaintiff pleads the analogous Pennsylvania statute and/or common law cause of action for consumer protection laws.

105. Under these statutes, Defendants are the suppliers, manufacturers, advertisers, and sellers, who are subject to liability under such legislation for unfair, deceptive, fraudulent and unconscionable consumer sales practices.

106. Defendants violated the statutes that were enacted in these states to protect consumers against unfair, deceptive, fraudulent and unconscionable trade and business practices and false advertising, by knowingly and falsely representing that Defendants' PRODUCTS were fit to be used for the purpose for which they were intended, when in fact they were defective and dangerous, and by other acts alleged herein. These representations were made in marketing and promotional materials.

107. The actions and omissions of Defendants alleged herein are uncured or incurable deceptive acts under the statutes enacted in the states to protect consumers against unfair, deceptive, fraudulent and unconscionable trade and business practices and false advertising.

108. Defendants had actual knowledge of the defective and dangerous condition of Defendants' PRODUCTS and failed to take any action to cure such defective and dangerous conditions.

109. Plaintiff relied upon Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions in determining which product to use.

110. Defendants' deceptive, unconscionable or fraudulent representations and material omissions to Plaintiff and other consumers constituted deceptive acts and practices.

111. By reason of the unlawful acts engaged in by Defendants, and as a direct and proximate result thereof, Plaintiff has suffered ascertainable losses and damages.

112. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violations of the states' consumer protection laws, Plaintiff has sustained economic losses and other damages and is entitled to statutory and compensatory damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, and each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, and requests restitution and disgorgement of profits, together with interest, cost of suit, attorneys' fees, and all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT NINE – NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION

(All Defendants)

113. Plaintiffs reallege each and every allegation of this Complaint as if each were set forth fully and completely herein.

114. Defendants had a duty to accurately and truthfully represent to the medical and healthcare community, Plaintiff and the public, that the PRODUCTS had been tested and found to be safe and effective for use in the perineal area. The representations made by Defendants, in fact, were false.

115. Defendants failed to exercise ordinary care in the representations concerning the PRODUCTS while they were involved in their manufacture, sale, testing, quality assurance,

quality control, and distribution in interstate commerce, because Defendants negligently misrepresented the PRODUCTS' high risk of unreasonable, dangerous, adverse side effects.

116. Defendants breached their duty in representing that the PRODUCTS have no serious side effects.

117. As a foreseeable, direct and proximate result of the negligent misrepresentation of Defendants as set forth herein, Defendants knew, and had reason to know, that the PRODUCTS had been insufficiently tested, or had not been tested at all, and that they lacked adequate and accurate warnings, and that it created a high risk, and/or higher than acceptable risk, and/or higher than reported and represented risk, of adverse side effects.

118. As a proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has been injured and sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care and comfort, and economic damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, and each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, requests compensatory damages, punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT TEN - CIVIL CONSPIRACY

(Against All Defendants)

119. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth at length herein.

120. Defendants and/or their predecessors-in-interest knowingly agreed, contrived, combined, confederated and conspired among themselves to cause Plaintiff's injuries, disease, and/or illnesses by exposing the Plaintiff to harmful and dangerous products. Defendants further

knowingly agreed, contrived, confederated and conspired to deprive the Plaintiff of the opportunity of informed free choice as to whether to use the PRODUCTS or to expose the Plaintiff to said dangers. Defendants committed the above described wrongs by willfully misrepresenting and suppressing the truth as to the risks and dangers associated with the use of and exposure to the PRODUCTS.

121. In furtherance of said conspiracies, Defendants performed the following overt acts:

- A. For many decades, Defendants, individually, jointly, and in conspiracy with each other, have been in possession of medical and scientific data, literature and test reports which clearly indicated that when used in an ordinary and foreseeable fashion by women, the PRODUCTS were unreasonably dangerous, hazardous, deleterious to human health, carcinogenic, and potentially deadly;
- B. Despite the medical and scientific data, literature, and test reports possessed by and available to Defendants, Defendants individually, jointly, and in conspiracy with each other, fraudulently, willfully and maliciously:
 1. Withheld, concealed and suppressed said medical information regarding the increased risk of ovarian cancer from Plaintiff (as set out in the “Facts” section of this pleading). In addition, on July 27, 2005, Defendants as part of the TIPTF corresponded and agreed to edit and delete portions of scientific papers being submitted on their behalf to the United States Toxicology Program in an attempt to prevent talc from being classified as a carcinogen.

2. The Defendants through the TIPTF instituted a “defense strategy” to defend talc at all costs. Admittedly, the Defendants through the TIPTF used their influence over the NTP Subcommittee, and the threat of litigation against the NTP to prevent the NTP from classifying talc as a carcinogen on its 10th RoC. According to the Defendants, “. . . we believe these strategies paid-off.”
 3. Caused to be released, published and disseminated medical and scientific data, literature, and test reports containing information and statements regarding the risks of ovarian cancer which Defendants knew were incorrect, incomplete, outdated, and misleading. Specifically, the Defendants through the TIPTF collectively agreed to release false information to the public regarding the safety of talc on July 1, 1992; July 8, 1992; and November 17, 1994. In a letter dated September 17, 1997, the Defendants were criticized by their own Toxicologist consultant for releasing this false information to the public, yet nothing was done by the Defendants to correct or redact this public release of knowingly false information.
- C. By these false and fraudulent representations, omissions, and concealments, Defendants intended to induce the Plaintiff to rely upon said false and fraudulent representations, omissions and concealments, and to continue to expose herself to the dangers inherent in the use of and exposure to the PRODUCTS.

122. Plaintiff reasonably and in good faith relied upon the aforementioned fraudulent representations, omissions, and concealments made by Defendants regarding the nature of the PRODUCTS.

123. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned fraudulent representations, omissions, and concealments made by Defendants regarding the nature of the PRODUCTS and Plaintiff's reliance thereon, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused her to develop ovarian cancer; Plaintiff was caused to incur medical bills, conscious pain and suffering, emotional distress and loss of the enjoyment of life.

124. As a direct and proximate result of Plaintiff's reliance, Plaintiff sustained damages including injuries, illnesses, and has been deprived of the opportunity of informed free choice in connection with the use and exposure to the PRODUCTS.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against all Defendants, each of them, in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT ELEVEN – ACTING IN CONCERT

(All Defendants)

125. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

126. At all pertinent times, Imerys Talc, Johnson & Johnson Defendants, and the Personal Care Products Council f/k/a Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrance Association (PCPC) knew that the PRODUCTS should contain warnings on the risk of ovarian cancer posed by women using the product to powder the perineal region, but purposefully sought to suppress such

information and omit such information from talc based products so as not to negatively affect sales and maintain the profits of the Johnson & Johnson Defendant, Imerys Talc, and the members of the PCPC.

127. Additionally and/or alternatively, the Defendants aided and abetted each other in the negligence, gross negligence, and reckless misconduct. Pursuant to the Restatement (Second) of Torts Section 876, each of the Defendants is liable for the conduct of the other Defendants for whom they aided and abetted.

128. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' concerted action, Plaintiff purchased and used, as aforesaid, the PRODUCTS that directly and proximately caused her to develop ovarian cancer and suffer excruciating pain and suffering, emotional distress, incur medical bills, and loss of the enjoyment and impairment of the quality of life.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against all Defendants, each of them, in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT TWELVE – Aiding and Abetting

(Defendant Personal Care Products Council)

129. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth at length herein.

130. Upon information and belief, Defendant Personal Care Products Council f/k/a Cosmetic, Toiletries, and Fragrance Council knowingly and willfully aided and abetted the fraudulent marketing and sales described herein.

131. Defendant PCPC aided and abetted this fraudulent scheme by providing substantial assistance to Defendants, Imerys and Johnson & Johnson. This substantial assistance included, among other things, the “Facts” section of this pleading and the facts set forth above.

132. Without Defendant PCPC’s substantial assistance, involvement and participation, the fraudulent scheme would not have been possible.

133. Plaintiff suffered serious injury and pecuniary losses as a proximate result of the aiding and abetting of Defendant PCPC, including but not limited to the development of ovarian cancer and excruciating pain and suffering, emotional distress, medical bills, and loss of the enjoyment and impairment of the quality of life.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against all Defendants, each of them, in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT THIRTEEN – LOSS OF CONSORTIUM

(All Defendants)

134. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth at length herein.

135. As a consequence of the injuries to his wife, Plaintiff, John G. Segreaves has suffered loss of consortium, companionship, services, society and support.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against all Defendants, each of them, in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$75,000.00, together with costs expended herein and such further and other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request the following damages be considered separately and individually for the purpose of determining the sum of money that will fairly and reasonably compensate Plaintiffs:

1. Severe impairment to her ovaries and reproductive system;
2. Medical expenses;
3. Pain and suffering;
4. Mental anguish, anxiety, and discomfort;
5. Fear of cancer or other related diseases;
6. Physical impairment;
7. Physical disfigurement;
8. Loss of enjoyment of life;
9. Loss of consortium, companionship, services, society and support
10. Pre and post judgment interest;
11. Exemplary and punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
12. Treble damages;
13. General damages;
14. Reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and other disbursements and expenses of this action; and,
15. Such other relief to which Plaintiffs may be justly entitled.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Demand is hereby made for trial by jury.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KEEFE BARTELS
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

By: /s/ Jennifer Harwood Ruhl
170 Monmouth Street
Red Bank, New Jersey 07701
Phone: 732-224-9400
Facsimile: 732-224-9494

Dated: December 9, 2016

JS 44 (Rev. 08/16)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Segreaves, Julie M.
Segreaves, John G.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Northampton County, PA
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Jennifer Harwood Ruhl, Esq. / Keefe Bartels, 170 Monmouth St., Red Bank, NJ 07701 / jruhl@keefebartels.com

DEFENDANTS

Johnson & Johnson; Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies; Imerys Talc America, Inc.; Personal Care Products Council, et.al.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Middlesex County
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

Susan Sharko, Esq. of Drinker, Biddle & Reath; Lorna Dotro, Esq. of Coughlin Duffy, LLP; Kelly Jones, Esq. of Harris Beach, PLLC

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- Citizen of This State
Citizen of Another State
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country
PTF DEF
1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State
2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State
3 3 Foreign Nation
4 4
5 5
6 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories and codes.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding
2 Removed from State Court
3 Remanded from Appellate Court
4 Reinstated or Reopened
5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. 1332

Brief description of cause: Plaintiff's diagnosis of ovarian cancer due to talcum powder use.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

- CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.
DEMAND \$ Unliquidated
JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE The Honorable Freda L. Wolfson DOCKET NUMBER MDL #2738

DATE 12/09/2016 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/Jennifer Harwood Ruhl, Esq.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFF JUDGE MAG. JUDGE