

Melinda Davis Nokes (CA: 167787)
WEITZ & LUXENBERG, P.C.
A Professional Corporation
1880 Century Park East
Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Telephone: 310-247-0921
Facsimile: 310-786-9927
E-mail: mnokes@weitzlux.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

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

IN RE: INVOKANA (CANAGLIFLOZIN)
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

Craig Lewis, as an Administrator of the
Estate of Cynthia Johnson (deceased) in his
own right and on Behalf of the
Beneficiaries of the Estate,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc.,
1125 Trenton-Harbourton Road
Titusville, NJ 08560
and

Janssen Research & Development
LLC
1125 Trenton-Harbourton Road
Titusville, NJ 08560
and

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933
and

Janssen Ortho LLC
c/o S.M. Rosenberg
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933

Defendants.

MDL NO. 2750

**JUDGE BRIAN R. MARTINOTTI
JUDGE LOIS H. GOODMAN**

**DIRECT FILED COMPLAINT PURSUANT
TO CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER 4
AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Civil Action No.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Craig Lewis, as an Administrator of the Estate of Cynthia Johnson (deceased) in his own right and on Behalf of the Beneficiaries of the Estate, files this Complaint pursuant to CMO No. 4 and is to be bound by the rights, protections and privileges and obligations of that CMO. Further, in accordance with CMO No. 4, Plaintiff hereby designates the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, as the place of remand as this case may have originally been filed there.

Plaintiff by and through the undersigned attorney, submits this complaint and jury demand against Defendants JANSSEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, LLC, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, JANSSEN ORTHO, LLC, and JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

As more specifically set forth below, Plaintiff maintains that the diabetes drug, Invokana, is defective, dangerous to human health, unfit and unsuitable to be marketed and sold in commerce and lacked proper warning to the dangers associated with its use. This case is being filed in accordance with Case Management Order No. 4 of the *In re: Invokana* MDL No. 2750.

I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. Defendants are the manufacturers of the prescription drug Invokana, developed and indicated for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. It was initially approved by the FDA in January of 2014 and is in a class of new diabetes drugs called glucose cotransporter-2 (“SGLT-2”) inhibitors. SGLT-2 is a protein in humans that facilitates glucose reabsorption in the kidneys. As the name suggests, SGLT-2 inhibitors decrease sugar in the bloodstream by inhibiting glucose reabsorption. The extra sugar is then eliminated from the body through urine produced by the user’s kidneys, putting extra strain on the kidneys of patients that already have increased insult to their kidneys by virtue of having diabetes.

2. In May 2015, the FDA issued a safety communication warning that SGLT-2 inhibitors (including Invokana) can cause life-threatening diabetic ketoacidosis (“DKA”), having discovered more than 20 cases that had been reported to FDA’s adverse event reporting system (“FAERS”). Although DKA in Type 1 diabetics occurs with some frequency, it is uncommon in Type 2 diabetics.

3. The Plaintiff’s Decedent herein, Cynthia Johnson, had type 2 diabetes, used Invokana and developed DKA. Plaintiff contends that the Defendants knew of this risk with Invokana, but failed to inform her or her doctor regarding this risk, and therefore bring this Complaint against Defendants.

II. PARTIES

4. Plaintiff’s Decedent Cynthia Johnson ingested and was physically harmed by the defendants’ product. Plaintiff Craig Lewis is the Administrator of her Estate.

5. At all relevant times since Cynthia Johnson’s initial use of Invokana, she was a resident and citizen of Colmesneil, Texas located in Tyler County.

6. Defendant, JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. f/k/a JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICIA INC., f/k/a ORTHO-MCNEIL-JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. (“Janssen”), was at all relevant times, a Pennsylvania corporation with a principal place of business at 1125 Trenton-Harbourton Road, Titusville, New Jersey 08560. Janssen is a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson. At all times relevant and material hereto, Janssen was, and still is, a pharmaceutical company involved in the manufacturing, research, development, marketing, distribution, sale, and release for use to the general public of pharmaceuticals, including Invokana, in New Jersey and Texas and throughout the United States.

7. Janssen is registered to do business throughout the United States, including New Jersey and Texas, where Plaintiff's decedent resided and where she was treated for her injuries.

8. Janssen, by its employees or agents attended meetings and/or participated in telephone calls regarding the research, and/or development, and/or FDA approval, and/or marketing of Invokana.

9. Janssen is the wholly owned subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson ("J&J"). J&J and Janssen worked together to achieve the common business purpose of selling and profiting from Invokana.

10. Janssen's President and Chief Executive Officer at all relevant times reports directly to a J&J Company Group Chairman, who in turn reports to J&J's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. At all relevant times, J&J and Janssen worked together to achieve the common business purpose of selling Invokana.

11. J&J and Janssen executives were also members of a Pharmaceutical Global Operating Committee, through which J&J set overall corporate goals that guided Janssen's strategic and tactical plans for Invokana. At all relevant times, J&J and Janssen worked together to achieve the common business purpose of selling Invokana.

12. J&J established Janssen's business objectives and sales goals and regularly reviewed and approved Janssen's sales numbers and projections. During the relevant time period, J&J supervised and controlled corporate sales goals; drug research; development, and manufacturing; medical affairs; regulatory affairs and compliance; legal affairs; and public relations. At all relevant times, J&J and Janssen worked together to achieve the common business purpose of selling Invokana.

13. Defendant, JANSSEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, LLC, is a limited liability company organized under the laws of New Jersey which has its principal place of business at 1125 Trenton-Harbourton Road, Titusville, NJ. Defendant Janssen Research & Development, LLC (formerly known as Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, LLC, and hereinafter referred to as “Janssen R&D”), is a New Jersey limited liability company. Janssen R&D is a wholly owned subsidiary of Centocor Research & Development, Inc., which is not a publically held corporation. Centocor Research & Development, Inc., a Pennsylvania corporation with its principal place of business in Pennsylvania, Janssen R&D is registered to do business throughout the United States, including in New Jersey and Texas, where Plaintiff’s decedent resided and where she was treated for her injuries.

14. Janssen R&D is registered to do business throughout the United States, including in New Jersey where the case is filed and Texas where Plaintiff’s decedent resided and where she was treated for her injuries.

15. Janssen R&D, by its employees or agents attended meetings and/or participated in telephone calls regarding the research, and/or development, and/or FDA approval, and/or marketing of Invokana.

16. Defendant JOHNSON & JOHNSON (hereinafter “J&J”), is a fictitious name adopted by Defendant JOHNSON & JOHNSON COMPANY, a New Jersey corporation which has its principal place of business at One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey 08933. Defendant JOHNSON & JOHNSON was engaged in the business of designing, developing, manufacturing, testing, packaging, promoting, marketing, distributing, labeling, and/or selling Invokana.

17. J&J, by its employees or agents attended meetings and/or participated in telephone calls regarding the research, and/or development, and/or FDA approval, and/or marketing of Invokana.

18. Defendant, JANSSEN ORTHO, LLC (“Ortho”) is a Delaware limited liability company with a principal place of business at State road 933 Km 01, Street Statero, Gurabo, Puerto Rico 00778. Ortho is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Ortho manufactures, and continues to manufacture Invokana. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Ortho derived, and continues to derive, substantial revenue from goods and products developed, marketed, sold, distributed and disseminated and used in New Jersey, Texas and throughout the United States.

19. Ortho, by its employees or agents attended meetings and/or participated in telephone calls regarding the research, and/or development, and/or FDA approval, and/or marketing of Invokana.

20. At all times alleged herein, Defendants shall include any and all named or unnamed parent companies, parent corporations, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, franchises, partners, joint venturers, and any organizational units of any kind, their predecessors, successors, successors in interest, assignees, and their officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives and any and all other persons acting on their behalf.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

21. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because Plaintiff and Defendants are citizens of different States and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 exclusive of interest and costs.

22. Venue in this action properly lies in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because, at all times material hereto, a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this claim occurred in this District, and 28 U.S.C. §1391(a) because at all times material hereto, Defendants JANSSEN and JOHNSON & JOHNSON had their principal place of business in this District, and all the defendants conducted substantial business in this District related to Invokana. Additionally, the Multi-District Litigation was created in and assigned to this District.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

23. This action seeks, among other relief, general and special damages due to plaintiff's decedent Cynthia Johnson from suffering severe and life threatening side effects of diabetic ketoacidosis caused by Invokana.

24. Invokana also known as canagliflozin, is a member of gliflozin class of pharmaceuticals also known as sodium glucose co-transporter 2 ("SGLT2") inhibitors.

25. SGLT2 inhibitors, including Invokana, inhibit renal glucose reabsorption through the SGL2 receptor in the proximal renal tubules, causing glucose to be excreted through the urinary tract instead of reabsorbed into the blood stream thereby putting additional strain on the kidneys.

26. SGLT2 inhibitors, including Invokana, are designed to target primarily the SGLT2 receptor, but have varying selectivity for this receptor, and block other sodium-glucose cotransporter receptors, including SGLT1.

27. The SGLT2 and SGLT1 receptors are located throughout the body, including in the kidney, intestines, and brain.

28. The active ingredient in Invokana, canagliflozin, is contained in both Invokana and Invokamet has the highest selectivity for the SGLT1 receptor among SGLT2 inhibitors currently marketed in the United States.

29. Invokana has the highest selectivity for the SGLT1 receptor among SGLT2 inhibitors currently marketed in the United States.

30. SGLT2 inhibitors, including Invokana, are currently approved only for improvement of glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes.

31. At all times herein mentioned, the Defendants were engaged in the business of researching, licensing, designing, formulating, compounding, testing, manufacturing, producing, processing, assembling, inspecting, distributing, marketing, labeling, promoting, packaging and/or advertising for sale or selling the prescription drug Invokana for the use and application by patients with diabetes, including, but not limited to, Cynthia Johnson .

32. Defendant J&J, the parent company of Janssen, is involved in the marketing and branding of Invokana, and publishes marketing and warnings regarding the product.

33. Defendants published advertisements on their company websites and issued press releases announcing favorable information about Canagliflozin. For example, the FDA's approval of Canagliflozin (Invokana) on March 29, 2013 was announced on the J&J web site.

34. On April 1, 2013, Defendants announced the approval of Canagliflozin (Invokana) in the United States as a new treatment option for Type 2 diabetes. On March 14, 2016, J&J issued a press release announcing "First Real-World Evidence Comparing an SGLT2 Inhibitor with DPP-4 Inhibitors Shows Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Achieve Greater Blood Glucose Control with INVOKANA® (canagliflozin)". The former announcements did not

contain warnings about ketoacidosis, serious infections, etc., while the latter announcement mentioned these conditions.

35. Through these advertisements, press releases, publications, and web sites, J&J has purposefully directed activities nationally including towards residents of Texas and New Jersey.

36. The Invokana-related pages on the Defendants' web sites are accessible from within Texas and New Jersey, and have been indexed by search engines so that they are located through searches that are conducted from within Texas and New Jersey.

37. Defendant J&J also published information touting the strong sales of Invokana in its corporate reports and in earnings calls.

38. Further, J&J employees had responsibility for overseeing promotion strategies for the drug Invokana.

39. Materials including advertisements, press releases, web site publications, and other communications regarding Invokana are part of the labeling of the drug, and could be altered without prior FDA approval.

40. Defendant J&J had the ability and the duty to improve the labeling of Invokana to warn of the propensity of the drug to cause diabetic ketoacidosis, renal injury, renal failure, severe infection, etc.

41. Defendant J&J so substantially dominates and controls the operations of Janssen and Janssen R&D that it could have required them to make changes to the safety label of the drug Invokana.

42. J&J employees hold key roles in the design, development, regulatory approval, manufacturing, distribution, and marketing of Invokana and direct these activities on behalf of J&J, Janssen, and Janssen R&D.

43. In fact, J&J so substantially dominates and controls the operations of Janssen and Janssen R&D, that the entities are indistinct for purposes of this litigation such that Janssen and Janssen R&D should be considered agents or departments of J&J, and J&J is their alter-ego.

44. Defendant Janssen, a wholly owned subsidiary of J&J, acquired the marketing right to Invokana in North America, and marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold Invokana in Texas and New Jersey and the remainder of the United States.

45. In February, 2014, Janssen R&D submitted an NDA to the FDA for approval to market Invokana in the United States.

46. In August 2014, the FDA approved Invokana as an adjunct to diet and exercise for the improvement of glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes.

47. As part of its marketing approval of canagliflozin, the FDA required the defendants to conduct five post-marketing studies: a cardiovascular outcomes trial; an enhanced pharmacovigilance program to monitor for malignancies, serious cases of pancreatitis, severe hypersensitivity reactions, photosensitivity reactions, liver abnormalities, and adverse pregnancy outcomes; a bone safety study; and two pediatric studies under the Pediatric Research Equity Act (PREA), including a pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics study and a safety and efficacy study.

48. In an effort to increase sales and market share, Defendants have aggressively marketed and continue to aggressively market Invokana to doctors and directly to patients for off-label purposes, including, but not limited to weight loss, reduced blood pressure, kidney benefits, cardiovascular benefits, and for use in type 1 diabetics.

49. Defendants also, through their marketing materials, misrepresented and exaggerated the effectiveness of Invokana, both as to its ability to lower glucose, and its benefit for non-surrogate measures of health, such as reducing adverse cardiovascular outcomes.

50. Defendants' marketing campaign willfully and intentionally misrepresented the risks of Invokana and failed to warn about the risks of diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure, sepsis and other injuries.

51. Invokana is one of Defendants' top selling drugs, with annual sales exceeding \$1 billion.

52. In September 2015, the FDA announced that SGLT2 inhibitors cause premature bone loss and fractures.

53. In December 2015, the FDA announced that SGLT2 inhibitors cause diabetic ketoacidosis, pyelonephritis (kidney infections), and urosepsis.

54. In March 2016, the FDA announced that SGLT2 inhibitors cause severe renal impairment, angioedema, and anaphylaxis.

55. In May 2016, the FDA announced that SGLT2 inhibitors have been linked to an increased risk of amputations.

56. At all times herein mentioned, the officers and directors of Defendants participated in, authorized, and directed the production and promotion of the aforementioned product when they knew, or with the exercise of reasonable care should have known, of the hazards and dangerous propensities of said product and thereby actively participated in the tortious conduct which resulted in the injuries suffered by Cynthia Johnson .

57. Defendants, both individually and in concert with one another, misrepresented that Invokana is a safe and effective treatment for type 2 diabetes mellitus when in fact the drug

causes serious medical problems which require hospitalization and can lead to life threatening complications, including but not limited to diabetic ketoacidosis and its sequelae, sepsis and kidney failure and its sequelae.

58. Specifically, Defendants knew or should have known of the risks of diabetic ketoacidosis and kidney failure based on the data available to them or that could have been generated by them, including, but not limited to animal studies, mechanisms of action, pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pre-clinical studies, clinical studies, animal models, genetic models, analogous compounds, analogous conditions, adverse event reports, case reports, post-marketing reports, and regulatory authority investigations, including, but not limited to the following:

- a. Canagliflozin selectivity for the SGLT1 receptor;
- b. Animal studies demonstrating increased ketones when given canagliflozin;
- c. Studies of SGLT1 inhibitor phlorizin, and its propensity to cause ketoacidosis;
- d. Reports involving people with familial glycosuria, indication a propensity to develop ketoacidosis;
- e. Clinical studies demonstrating increases in glucagon in people taking canagliflozin;
- f. Clinical studies, adverse event reports, and case reports demonstrating increased ketones in people taking canagliflozin;
- g. Clinical studies, adverse event reports, and case reports demonstrating dehydration and volume depletion in people taking canagliflozin;
- h. Clinical studies, adverse event reports, and case reports demonstrating vomiting in people taking canagliflozin;
- i. Clinical studies, adverse even reports and case reports demonstrating re challenge responses in increasing Ketones and diabetic ketoacidosis in people taking cangliflozin;

- j. Adverse event report analysis demonstrating an increased rate of reports for ketoacidosis in people taking canagliflozin compared to other glucose-lowering medications.

59. Diabetic ketoacidosis may lead to complications such as cerebral edema, pulmonary edema, cerebrovascular accident, myocardial infarction, nonspecific myocardial injury, severe dehydration, and coma.

60. Invokana induced diabetic ketoacidosis may lead to delayed treatment because in many cases Invokana will keep blood sugar below 250 mg/dl, a threshold often used when diagnosing diabetic ketoacidosis. This may result in increased progression of the condition and increased injury to the patient.

61. Defendants were aware that the mechanism of action for Invokana places extraordinary strain on the kidneys and renal system.

62. Despite their knowledge of data indicating that Invokana use is causally related to the development of diabetic ketoacidosis and kidney failure, Defendants promoted and marketed Invokana as safe and effective for persons such as Cynthia Johnson throughout the United States, including Texas and New Jersey.

63. Despite Defendants' knowledge of the increased risk of severe injury among Invokana users, Defendants did not warn patients but instead continued to defend Invokana, mislead physicians and the public, and minimize unfavorable findings.

64. Defendants failed to adequately warn consumers and physicians about the risks associated with Invokana and the monitoring required ensuring their patients' safety.

65. Despite Defendants' knowledge of the increased risk of severe injury among Invokana users, Defendants did not conduct the necessary additional studies to properly evaluate these risks prior to marketing the drug to the general public.

66. Consumers of Invokana and their physicians relied on the Defendants' false representations and were misled as to the drug's safety, and as a result have suffered injuries including diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure, sepsis, cardiovascular problems, and the life-threatening complications thereof.

67. Consumers, including Cynthia Johnson, have several alternatives safer methods for treating diabetes, including diet and exercise and other antidiabetic agents.

B. SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS

68. Cynthia Johnson had several alternative and safer methods to treat her diabetes, including diet and exercise and other diabetes medications. Cynthia Johnson was prescribed Invokana 300 mg on March 19, 2014 by her doctor and used it as directed.

69. Cynthia Johnson was prescribed Invokana to be taken once by mouth daily to improve glycemic control and for weight loss as an adjunct to diet and exercise.

70. As a direct result of her treatment with Invokana Cynthia Johnson suffered diabetic ketoacidosis and was hospitalized at Tyler County Hospital and St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Beaumont, Texas on two separate occasions from December of 2014 to January of 2015.

71. Cynthia Johnson endured pain and suffering, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, and economic loss, including significant expenses for medical care and treatment. Plaintiff seeks actual, compensatory, and punitive damages from Defendants.

72. Defendants' wrongful acts, omissions and fraudulent misrepresentations caused Cynthia Johnson's injuries and damages.

73. Cynthia Johnson's injuries were preventable and resulted directly from Defendants' failure and refusal to conduct proper safety studies, failure to properly assess and publicize alarming safety signals, suppression of information revealing serious and life

threatening risks, willful and wanton failure to provide adequate instructions, and willful misrepresentations concerning the nature and safety of Invokana. The conduct and the product defects were a substantial factor in bringing about Plaintiff's decedent's injuries.

74. Defendants had a duty to warn Cynthia Johnson's prescribing physicians about the risks of Invokana use, including the risk of diabetic ketoacidosis, renal failure, sepsis and resulting complications.

75. Had Cynthia Johnson and her physicians known the risks associated with the use of SGLT2 inhibitors, including Invokana, Cynthia Johnson would not have been prescribed Invokana, would not have taken Invokana, and/or she would have been adequately monitored for its side effects, and as a result, would not have suffered injuries and damages from using Invokana.

76. Cynthia Johnson's prescribing and treating physicians relied on claims made by Defendants that Invokana has been clinically shown to improve glycemic control and was generally safe and effective. These claims reached Cynthia Johnson's prescribing and treating physicians directly, through sales representatives detailing the product, print and television advertising, articles and study reports funded and promoted by Defendants, and indirectly, through other healthcare providers and others who have been exposed to Defendants' claims through their comprehensive marketing campaigns.

77. Cynthia Johnson relied on claims made by defendants that Invokana has been clinically shown to improve glycemic control and was generally safe and effective. These claims reached Cynthia Johnson directly, through print and television advertising, and indirectly, through her healthcare providers and others who have been exposed to Defendants' claims through its comprehensive marketing campaigns.

78. Based on the Defendants' direct to consumer advertising and Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions, Cynthia Johnson made an independent decision to use Invokana in reference to the overall benefits and risks communicated by Defendants.

79. Cynthia Johnson's injuries were a reasonable foreseeable consequence of Defendants' conduct and Invokana's hazards, and were not reasonably foreseeable to Plaintiff's decedent or Plaintiff's decedent's physicians.

V. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

**COUNT ONE
DESIGN DEFECT**

80. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though set forth fully at length herein

81. Defendants had a duty to properly design, manufacture, compound, test, inspect, label, distribute, market, examine, maintain, supply, provide proper warnings, and take such steps as to assure that Invokana did not cause users to suffer from unreasonable and dangerous side effects.

82. The aforesaid product was defective and unsafe in design and manufacture such that it was unreasonably dangerous to the user, and was so at the time it was distributed by Defendants and ingested by Cynthia Johnson.

83. Invokana was defective at the time of its manufacture, development, production, testing, inspection, endorsement, prescription, sale and distribution in that warnings, instructions and directions accompanying Invokana failed to warn of the dangerous risks posed by Invokana, including the risk of developing diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney damage and sepsis.

84. Invokana was defective and Defendants knew that Invokana was to be used by consumers without inspection for defects. Moreover, Cynthia Johnson's prescribing physicians and other health care providers neither knew nor had reason to know at the time of Cynthia Johnson's use of Invokana of the aforementioned defects. Ordinary consumers would not have recognized the potential risks for which Defendants failed to include the appropriate warnings.

85. Invokana was prescribed to and used by Cynthia Johnson as intended by Defendants and in a manner reasonably foreseeable to Defendants.

86. The design of Invokana was defective in that the risks associated with using Invokana outweighed any benefits of the design. Any benefits associated with the use of Invokana were either relatively minor or nonexistent and could have been obtained by the use of other, alternative treatments and products that could equally or more effectively reach similar results.

87. The defect in design existed when the product left Defendants' possession.

88. At the time Invokana left the control of Defendants, Defendants knew or should have known of the risks associated with ingesting Invokana.

89. As a result of Invokana's defective condition, Plaintiff's decedent suffered the injuries and damages alleged herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein incurred, attorneys' fees, and all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. Plaintiff also demands that the issues herein contained be tried by a jury.

**COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO WARN**

90. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though set forth fully at length herein.

91. Defendants designed, developed, researched, tested, licensed, manufactured, packaged, labeled, promoted, marketed, sold, and distributed Invokana in a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition, including the Invokana used by Cynthia Johnson . The design defect made Invokana more dangerous than an ordinary consumer would expect and more dangerous than other drugs used to treat diabetes.

92. Invokana's inadequate warnings rendered Invokana unreasonably dangerous and defective.

93. Defendants' defective warnings for Invokana were reckless, willful, wanton, fraudulent, malicious, and done with reckless disregard for the health and safety of users of Invokana. Defendants made conscious decisions not to adequately warn about risks they know or should have known about. Defendants' reckless conduct warrants an award of punitive damages. Defendants' conduct was motivated by greed and the intentional decision to value profits over the safety and well-being of the consumers of Invokana.

94. Cynthia Johnson was prescribed and used Invokana for its intended purposes and for purposes that the defendants expected and could foresee.

95. Defendants expected and intended Invokana to reach, and did in fact reach, Cynthia Johnson without any substantial change in the condition of the product from when it was initially manufactured by Defendants.

96. Cynthia Johnson could not have discovered the unwarned risks of using Invokana through the exercise of reasonable care.

97. Defendants, as manufacturers of pharmaceutical drugs, are held to the level of knowledge of an expert in the field, and further, Defendants knew or should have known that the warnings and other relevant information and data which they distributed regarding the risks of injuries and death associated with the use of Invokana were incomplete and inadequate.

98. Cynthia Johnson did not have the same knowledge as Defendants and no adequate warning or other clinically relevant information and data was communicated to Cynthia Johnson or to her treating physicians. The warnings that were given by the Defendants were not accurate and were incomplete.

99. Defendants had a duty to properly test, develop, design, manufacture, inspect, package, label, market, promote, sell, distribute, supply, warn, and take other such steps as necessary to ensure that Invokana did not cause users to suffer from unreasonable and dangerous risks.

100. Defendants knew or should have known that the limited warnings disseminated with Invokana were inadequate, but they failed to communicate adequate information on the dangers and safe use of its product, taking into account the characteristics of and the ordinary knowledge common to physicians who would be expected to prescribe the drug. In particular, Defendants failed to communicate warnings and instructions to doctors that were appropriate and adequate to render the product safe for its ordinary, intended, and reasonably foreseeable uses, including the common, foreseeable, and intended use of the product for treatment of diabetes.

101. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' manufacture, sale and promotion of the defectively designed drug and failure to warn Cynthia Johnson and her physicians about the significant risks inherent in Invokana therapy, Cynthia Johnson sustained severe injuries.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein incurred, attorneys' fees, and all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. Plaintiff also demands that the issues herein contained be tried by a jury.

**COUNT THREE
NEGLIGENCE**

102. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though set forth fully at length herein.

103. At all times relevant times, Defendants had a duty to use reasonable care to properly manufacture, design, formulate, compound, test, produce, process, assemble, inspect, research, distribute, market, label, package, distribute, prepare for use, sell, prescribe and adequately warn of the risks and dangers of Invokana.

104. At all times material hereto, Defendants had actual knowledge, or in the alternative, should have known through the exercise of reasonable and prudent care, of the hazards and dangers of Invokana to cause or increase the harm of diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure, sepsis, and the life threatening complications of those conditions.

105. Defendants had a duty to exercise due care and avoid unreasonable risk of harm to others when developing and selling Invokana.

106. Defendants had a duty to disclose to physicians, healthcare providers, and patients the causal relationship or association of Invokana to diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure, sepsis, and the life threatening complications of those conditions.

107. Defendants had a duty to accurately communicate the risks and benefits of Invokana to physicians, healthcare provides, and patients.

108. As a result of the Defendants' aggressive marketing campaigns promoting off-label uses, including for type 1 diabetes, weight loss, and to improve blood pressure and kidney function, Defendants knew or should have known and expected that consumers would use Invokana for such off-label uses.

109. Defendants knew or should have known that some patients would develop serious injuries that were not adequately warned about, including diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure and sepsis, and these injuries were foreseeable.

110. Cynthia Johnson did not know the nature and extent of the injuries that could result from Invokana and were misinformed about the benefits of Invokana and could not have discovered this information independently.

111. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants breached their duty of care by failing to exercise reasonable and ordinary care and negligently and carelessly manufacturing, designing, formulating, distributing, compounding, producing, processing, assembling, inspecting, distributing, marketing, labeling, packaging, preparing for use, and selling Invokana, and failing to adequately test and warn of the risks and dangers of Invokana.

112. Despite the fact that Defendants knew or should have known that Invokana caused unreasonable, dangerous side effects, Defendants continued to market Invokana to consumers, including Cynthia Johnson, when there were safer alternative methods available.

113. Defendants' negligence was a foreseeable and proximate cause of Cynthia Johnson's injuries, harm and economic loss which she suffered, as described and prayed for herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein

incurred, attorneys' fees, and all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. Plaintiff also demands that the issues herein contained be tried by a jury.

**COUNT FOUR
BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY**

114. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though set forth fully at length herein.

115. Defendants impliedly warranted to Cynthia Johnson and her physicians and health care providers that Invokana was of merchantable quality and safe and fit for the use which it was intended.

116. The product did not conform to representations made by the manufacturer.

117. Cynthia Johnson reasonably relied entirely on the skill, judgment, and implied warranty of the Defendants when using Invokana.

118. As a result, Cynthia Johnson used the Defendants' product as it was warranted and intended.

119. Invokana was not of merchantable quality, as warranted by Defendants because it was dangerous when used as intended and can cause severe injuries to consumers.

120. As a result of Defendants' breach of implied warranties, Plaintiff's decedent suffered injuries and damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein incurred, attorneys' fees, and all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. Plaintiff also demands that the issues herein contained be tried by a jury.

**COUNT FIVE
BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

121. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though set forth fully at length herein.

122. Defendants expressly warranted to Plaintiff's decedent's physicians and Plaintiff's decedent by and through statements made by Defendants or their authorized agents or sales representatives, orally and in publications, package inserts, marketing, and other written materials intended for physicians and the public that Invokana is safe, effective, fit and proper for its intended use, of merchantable quality, had been adequately tested, contained adequate warnings, and was effective.

123. The "Warnings and Precautions" section of the Invokana prescribing information purports to expressly describe the relevant and material side-effects that Defendants knew or should have known about.

124. In particular the Consumer Medication Guide did not include any language that would suggest Invokana has been associated with diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure, blood infections, or kidney infections.

125. Cynthia Johnson's physician prescribed Invokana and Cynthia Johnson consumed Invokana reasonably relying on these warranties. Cynthia Johnson and her physician could not have learned independently that Defendants were false and misleading.

126. The product did not conform to representations made by the manufacturer.

127. Defendants knew or should have known Cynthia Johnson would rely on their warranties.

128. Plaintiff's decedent reasonably relied on the skill, judgment, representations, and foregoing express warranties of the Defendants.

129. The warranties and representations are false. Invokana can cause diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure, blood infections, and kidney infections.

130. Invokana does not conform to the Defendants' express representations; therefore, Defendants have breached the express warranties.

131. The breach of express warranties by Defendants was a foreseeable, direct, and proximate cause of Cynthia Johnson's injuries and damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein incurred, attorneys' fees, and all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. Plaintiff also demands that the issues herein contained be tried by a jury.

**COUNT SIX
FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION**

132. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though set forth fully at length herein.

133. Defendants intentionally and fraudulently misrepresented the safety and efficacy of Invokana in the product label.

134. Specifically Defendants intentionally and fraudulently:
- a. Provided a "Warnings and Precautions" section of the Invokana prescribing information that purports to expressly describe the relevant and material potential side-effects that Defendants knew or should have known about, but in which material and relevant information was fraudulently withheld from this section;
 - b. Provided Consumer Medication Guide that expressly indicates "What is the most important information I should know about INVOKANA?" and "What are the possible side effects of INVOKANA?" and "General information about the safe and effective use of INVOKANA" and fraudulently omits information that Invokana has been associated with diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure, or cardiovascular adverse events;

- c. On information and belief, each and every advertisement and marketing channel fraudulently omits information about the risks of Invokana and overstates the benefits;
- d. Failed to disclose that Invokana was not as safe and effective as other diabetes drugs;
- e. Failed to disclose that Invokana does not result in safe and more effective diabetes treatments than other available drugs;
- f. Failed to disclose that the risk of harm associated with Invokana was greater than the risk of harm associated with other diabetes drugs;
- g. Failed to disclose that Defendants knew that Invokana was not adequately tested;
- h. Failed to disclose that testing had revealed unreasonably high risk of injury;
- i. On information and belief, failed to disclose that Defendants intentionally withheld safety information from the FDA; and
- j. Affirmatively asserted that Invokana was safe and effective.

135. Defendants knew that their representations were false, yet they willfully, wantonly and recklessly disregarded their obligation to provide truthful representations regarding the safety and risk of Invokana to Cynthia Johnson, other consumers, Cynthia Johnson's physicians, and the medical community.

136. The representations were made by the Defendants with the intent that doctors and patients, including Cynthia Johnson and her physicians, rely upon them.

137. Defendants' representations were made with the intent of defrauding and deceiving Cynthia Johnson, other consumers, Cynthia Johnson's physicians, and the medical community to induce and encourage the sale of Invokana.

138. Defendants J&J, Janssen, and Janssen R&D, in advertisements through their respective websites, and press releases issued by the respective defendants, stated that the drug Invokana was generally well tolerated and safe for use, and was not likely to cause side effects

other than the ones listed—these listed side effects did not include diabetic ketoacidosis, renal injury or renal failure, bone fractures, sepsis etc. Cynthia Johnson, her doctors, and others relied upon these representations.

139. As a foreseeable, direct, and proximate consequence of Defendants' actions, omissions, and misrepresentations Cynthia Johnson suffered acute renal failure and other related health complications. Plaintiff's decedent incurred medical and related expenses. Her direct medical losses and costs include physician care, monitoring, and treatment. She incurred mental and physical pain and suffering.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor for compensatory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs herein incurred, attorneys' fees, and all such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. Plaintiff also demands that the issues herein contained be tried by a jury.

VI. PUNITIVE DAMAGES ALLEGATIONS

140. The acts, conduct, and omissions of Defendants, as alleged throughout this Complaint were wanton, willful, fraudulent, dishonest and malicious. Defendants committed these acts with a conscious disregard for the rights, health and safety of Cynthia Johnson and other Invokana users and for the primary purpose of increasing Defendants' profits from the sale and distribution of Invokana. Defendants' outrageous and unconscionable conduct warrants an award of exemplary and punitive damages against Defendants in an amount appropriate to punish and make an example of Defendants.

141. Prior to the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of Invokana, Defendants knew that said medication was in a defective condition as previously described herein and knew that those who were prescribed the medication would experience and did experience severe physical,

mental, and emotional injuries. Further, Defendants, through their officers, directors, managers, and agents, knew that the medication presented a substantial and unreasonable risk of harm to the public, including Cynthia Johnson and as such, Defendants unreasonably subjected consumers of said drugs to risk of injury or death from using Invokana.

142. Despite its knowledge, Defendants, acting through its officers, directors and managing agents for the purpose of enhancing Defendants' profits, knowingly and deliberately failed to remedy the known defects in Invokana and failed to warn the public, including Plaintiff's decedent, of the extreme risk of injury occasioned by said defects inherent in Invokana. Defendants and their agents, officers, and directors intentionally proceeded with the manufacturing, sale, and distribution and marketing of Invokana knowing these actions would expose persons to serious danger in order to advance Defendants' pecuniary interest and monetary profits. Said conduct was motivated by the reprehensible motive of increasing monetary profits for the sale of Invokana.

143. Defendants' conduct was despicable and so contemptible that it would be looked down upon and despised by ordinary decent people, and was carried on by Defendants with willful and conscious disregard for the safety of Cynthia Johnson, entitling Plaintiff to exemplary damages.

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

144. Wherefore, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants for compensatory damages as well as exemplary damages and loss of wages to which they are entitled by law, as well as all costs of this action, to the full extent of the law including:

1. Judgment for Plaintiff and against Defendants;

2. Damages to compensate Plaintiff for injuries sustained as a result of the use of Invokana for past and future loss of income proven at trial;
3. Pre and post judgment interest at the lawful rate;
4. Exemplary and punitive damages in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits.
5. A trial by jury on all issues of the case; and,
6. For any other relief as this court may deem just, or that may be available under the law of another forum to the extent the law of another forum is applied including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and expert fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: April 12, 2017

By: /s/ Melinda Davis Nokes
Melinda Davis Nokes (CA: 167787)
WEITZ & LUXENBERG, P.C.
1880 Century Park East
Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Telephone: 310-247-0921
Facsimile: 310-786-9927
E-mail: mnokes@weitzlux.com
Attorney for PLAINTIFF

DEMAND FOR A TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a jury trial as to all issues and defenses.

WEITZ & LUXENBERG, P.C.
1880 Century Park East
Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Telephone: 310-247-0921
Facsimile: 310-786-9927

By: s/ Melinda Davis Nokes

Dated: April 12, 2017

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO L. CIV. R. 11.2

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this matter is not the subject of any other action pending in any court or of any pending arbitration or administrative proceeding.

By: /s/ Melinda Davis Nokes
Melinda Davis Nokes (CA: 167787)
WEITZ & LUXENBERG, P.C.
1880 Century Park East
Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Telephone: 310-247-0921
Facsimile: 310-786-9927
E-mail: mnokes@weitzlux.com
Attorney for PLAINTIFF

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

CRAIG LEWIS, as an Administrator of the Estate of Cynthia Johnson (deceased)

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

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

MELINDA DAVIS NOKES, WEITZ & LUXENBERG P.C., 1880 CENTURY PARK EAST, SUITE 700, LOS ANGELES, CA 90067.

DEFENDANTS

JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., JASSEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT LLC, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, ET AL.

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

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

Attorneys (If Known)

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, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation

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

Table with 5 columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories like Insurance, Motor Vehicle, Personal Injury, etc.

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, 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): 28:1332pl
Brief description of cause: Product Liability

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: X Yes [] No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE BRIAN MARTINOTTI DOCKET NUMBER MDL No. 2750

DATE 04/12/2017 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading 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. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.