UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

ALYSSA FOSTER,

Plaintiff,

VS.

ORGANON USA, INC., ORGANON PHARMACEUTICALS USA, INC., ORGANON INTERNATIONAL, INC., AKZO NOBEL NV, SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION, MERCK & COMPANY, INC. COMPLAINT AND

CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-3435 (50L)

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

Defendants.

Plaintiff, by and through counsels, and for her complaint against Defendants, alleges as follows:

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

- 1. Plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, is a citizen of the state of Pennsylvania.
- 2. Plaintiff seeks an amount in controversy in excess of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 3. Defendant, ORGANON USA, INC., is a global pharmaceutical company engaged in the business of creating, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, labeling, researching, developing and selling medicines in the field of women's health, including the contraceptive, NuvaRing ("ring").
- 4. Defendant, ORGANON USA, INC., is or at pertinent time was a wholly owned subsidiary and the largest pharmaceutical business unit of Defendant, AKZO NOBEL NV.
- 5. Defendant, ORGANON PHARMACEUTICALS USA, INC., is a foreign corporation authorized to and actually transacting business in the State of New Jersey, with its principal place of business located at 56 Livingston Avenue, Roseland, New Jersey 07068.
- 6. Defendant, ORGANON PHARMACEUTICALS USA, INC., is a global pharmaceutical company engaged in the business of creating, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, labeling, researching, developing and selling medicines in the field of women's health,

Case 2:12-cv-03435-SDW-MCA Document 1 Filed 06/06/12 Page 2 of 7 PageID: 2 including the contraceptive, NuvaRing.

- 7. Defendant, ORGANON PHARMACEUTICALS USA, INC., is or at pertinent time was a wholly owned subsidiary and a pharmaceutical business unit of Defendant, AKZO NOBEL NV.
- 8. Defendant, ORGANON INTERNATIONAL, INC., is a foreign corporation authorized and actually transacting business in the State of New Jersey, with its principal place of business located at 56 Livingston Avenue, Roseland, New Jersey 07068.
- 9. Defendant, ORGANON INTERNATIONAL, INC., is a global pharmaceutical company engaged in the business of creating, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, labeling, researching, developing and selling medicines in the field of women's health, including the contraceptive, NuvaRing.
- 10. Defendant, ORGANON INTERNATIONAL, INC., is or at pertinent time was a wholly owned subsidiary and a pharmaceutical business unit of Defendant, AKZO NOBEL NV.
- 11. Defendant, AZKO NOBEL NV, is a global Fortune 500 Company incorporated and existing under the laws of The Netherlands.
- 12. Defendant, AZKO NOBEL NV, individually and through its wholly owned subsidiaries, including Defendants herein, and the trading of its stock on NASDAQ regularly transacts or solicits business, engages in a persistent course of conduct, and derives substantial revenue from goods used or consumed in the State of New Jersey.
- 13. Defendant, AZKO NOBEL NV, individually and through its wholly owned subsidiaries, including Defendants herein, is a company engaged in the business of creating, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, labeling, researching, developing and selling medicines in the field of women's health, including the contraceptive, NuvaRing.
- 14. Defendant, SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION, acquired the above named defendants in 2007 and assumed the liabilities attendant thereto, and has its principal place of doing business in New Jersey.

- a. In 2008, Defendant, SCHERING-PLOUGH, acquired defendant ORGANON PHARMACEUTICAL USA, INC.; caused it to be dissolved as a corporation; and made it a subsidiary. In so doing, Defendant SCHERING-PLOUGH assumed the liabilities of ORGANON PHARMACEUTICAL USA, INC., as pleaded in this complaint.
- b. In 2009, Defendant, MERCK & CO., INC., which has its principal place of doing business in New Jersey, acquired Defendant, SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION, and assumed the liabilities attendant to both SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION and the previously named ORGANON Defendants, plus became liability for injuries which the said product caused after it took control of it.
- 15. This court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332 because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 16. Venue in this district is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §1391 because defendants have their principal places of doing business here.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 17. Plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, was born on July 02, 1989.
- 18. Pursuant to prescription, plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER utilized Defendants' ring product from approximately February 2010 to June 2010.
- 19. Defendants marketed, promoted and advertised the ring product to physicians and to the public as equally or more safe than oral contraceptive pills, whereas it was less safe than the pill, as defendants knew.
- 20. Defendants marketed, promoted and advertised the ring product as presenting less of a risk of thrombotic side effects than other means of contraception because of its relatively low amount of estrogen in an attempt to disguise the fact that it had a high level of a dangerous third-generation progestin, capable to causing thrombotic side effects.

- 21. Defendants failed to warn prescribing physicians and the public that the ring product was associated with more thrombotic events than the pill.
- 22. Defendants failed to provide proper and full information as to safety to the Food and
- 23. Drug Administration, which regulated the sale of the ring, and thereby avoided having appropriate warnings and cautions added to its labeling and advertising.
- 24. Defendants obtained permission to market the ring product by presenting safety data derived from studies on the pill and failed to do proper clinical investigation with actual users of the ring product.
- 25. In actuality, as Defendants knew but failed to disclose, the ring product released a continuous stream of hormones (progestin and estrogen) into the body of the user, and at a higher level than the pill provided, and more than defendants stated were being released into the blood stream in its promotional literature.
- 26. Plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, in or about June 2010 sustained an injury due to her use of NuvaRing, namely a pulmonary embolism.
- 27. As a further result Plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, incurred damages, both special and general.
- 28. Plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, and her prescribing health care providers were unaware of the increased risk of the use of the ring and would have used and prescribed other methods for birth control if they have been so informed.
- 29. Up until the time that Plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, was injured, the Food and Drug Administration had never forbidden the defendants from mentioning the subjects about enhanced risks stated above, nor had it ever prevented defendants from enlarging on their warnings about thrombotic risks associated with the use of the ring product.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION - STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY

- 30. The said ring product was defective and unreasonably dangerous when defendants placed it into the stream of commerce.
- 31. The defects in the ring product were a proximate cause of the injuries suffered by

Plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, and the damages thereby incurred.

- 32. By engaging in the said conduct, defendants have become strictly liable to Plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, pursuant to applicable state law.
- 33. Defendants' ring product was defective and unreasonably dangerous when Defendants placed it into the stream of commerce, in violation of the New Jersey Product Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 2 A:58C-1 et seq.
- 34. Said conduct of Defendants was so willful, wanton, malicious, reckless and in such disregard for the consequences as to reveal a conscious indifference to the clear risk of death or serious bodily injury and merits the imposition of punitive damages.
- 35. As of the Defendants' said conduct, plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, has sustained general and special damages in the amount of TEN MILLION (\$10,000,000.00) DOLLARS.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION - BREACH OF WARRANTY

- 36. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs of the Complaint designated 30-35.
- 37. Defendants have breached applicable warranties, express and implied, including safety, pursuant to applicable state law and are therefore liable to Plaintiff.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION - NEGLIGENCE

- 38. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs of the Complaint designated 30-35 and 37.
- 39. Defendants were negligent in designing, manufacturing, inspecting, testing, labeling, monitoring, promoting, distributing and selling the product, pursuant to applicable state law.
- 40. Defendants are therefore liable to Plaintiff.
- 41. The conduct of Defendants was so willful, Defendants was so willful, wanton, malicious, reckless and in such disregard for the consequences as to reveal a conscious indifference to the clear risk of death or serious bodily injury and merits the imposition of punitive damages.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION - FRAUD AND MISREPRESNTATION

- 42. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs of the Complaint designated 30-35, 37, 39-41.
- 43. Defendants deliberately and carelessly made false and misleading statements about the safety of the product, on which plaintiff and her prescribing doctor relied to her detriment.
- 44. Defendants concealed research which it did or had done for it, or changed it before presentation to the FDA or for publication so as to minimize health hazard, and caused to be published articles unjustifiably representing the safety of the product.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION-CONSUMER FRAUD

- 45. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs of the Complaint designated 30-35, 37, 39-41, 43-44.
- 46. Defendants, through their agents, servants and/or employees violated the New Jersey

 Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., through their design, manufacture, testing,

 distribution, promotion and sale of the ring product by engaging in one or more of the following

 unlawful practices: unconscionable commercial practices, deception, fraud, false pretenses, false

 promises, misrepresentations, and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of

 material facts with the intent that Plaintiff herein and other users would rely upon such

 concealment, suppression or omission and otherwise pursuant to applicable state law.
- 47. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful acts and conduct of the Defendants, as described above, Plaintiff, ALYSSA FOSTER, was caused to suffer serious and permanent injuries; was caused to suffer great pain and will in the future be caused to suffer great pain; was caused to incur medical expenses and will in the future be caused to incur medical expenses; was caused to lose time from her employment and will in the future be caused to lose time from her employment; and was caused to suffer and will in the future continue to suffer an adverse and material change in her quality of life.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands Judgment on this Count against the Defendants, individually, jointly, severally, or in the alternative, for compensatory damages, exemplary damages, attorney's fees, costs of suit and all such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against defendants, severally and jointly:

- a. Compensatory damages on all Causes of Action;
- b. Punitive damages against on all Causes of Action;
- c. All together with interest, costs and disbursements;
- d. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff request trial by jury for all issues.

Dated: June 5, 2012

NAPOLI BERN RIPKA SHKOLNIK AND ASSOCIATES, LLP

By:

Hunter J. Shkolnik

The Empire State Building 350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 7413

New York, New York 10118

212.267.3700

Hunter@napolibern.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

(BY) DEPUTY CLERK

ALYSSA FOSTER,					
Plaintiff,		CIVIL ACTION NO			
VS.					
ORGANON USA, INC., ORGANON PHARMACEUTICALS USA, INC., ORG INTERNATIONAL, INC., AKZO NOBE SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION MERCK & COMPANY, INC.	EL NV,	SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION			
MERCH & COMPANI, INC.					
Defendants.					
TO: (Defendant's name and address):	820 Bear	AKZO NOBEL NV 220 Bear Tavern Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628			
	SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION 2000 Galloping Hill Road Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033				
	ON USA, INC. ON PHARMACEUTICALS USA, INC. ON INTERNATIONAL, INC. & COMPANY, INC. Drive use Station, New Jersey 08889				
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and a Hunter J. Shkolnik Napoli Bern Ripka Shkolnik & Associate 350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 7413 New York, New York 10118		serve upon PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY			
an answer to the compliant which is here service of this summons upon you, exclusive by default will be taken against you for the your answer with the Clerk of this Court with	ve of the day relief dema	y of service. If you fail to do so, judgment anded in the compliant. You must also file			
CLERK		DATE			



12-3435 (50

DORI MILNER, ESQ. DMILNER@NAPOLIBERN.COM

peed 6-672

June 5, 2012

Via: Federal Express

United States District Court District of New Jersey 50 Walnut Street Newark, NJ 07102 Attention: Clerk's Office, Room 4015

Re: Alyssa Foster – Complaint

Dear Clerk of the Court:

Enclosed please find an original civil cover sheet, summons and complaint along with a check in the amount of \$350.00 to be filed. Also, enclosed please find a copy of the civil cover sheet, summons and complaint along with a return envelope. Please return a stamped filed copy of the civil cover sheet, summons and complaint in the return envelope provided.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (212) 267-3700. Thank you.

Sincerely,

NAPOLI BERN RIPKA SHKOLNIK & ASSOCIATES, LLP

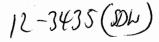
Dori Milner, Esq.

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Encls.

JS 44 (Rev. 09/11)

CIVIL COVER SHEET



The JS 44 civil coversheet 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 ALYSSA FOSTER				DEFENDANTS Organon USA, Inc		
,				,		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Lackawanna				County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant	Essex
(E.	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF C.	ASES)	-		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES	
				NOTE:	IN LAND CONDEMNATION (THE TRACT OF LAND INVOI	CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF LVED.
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,) Hunter J. Shkolnik	Address, Telephone Number, an	nd Email Address)		Attorneys (If Known)		
Napoli Bern Ripka Shkoli						
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 7			[
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff) and One Box for Defendant)
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	· ·	P	TF DEF 1	PTF DEF rincipal Place
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	■ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	n of Another State	2	
				n or Subject of a eign Country	3 G 3 Foreign Nation	0606
IV. NATURE OF SUIT					٠,	
CONTRACT	TC			REFETURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane	PERSONAL INJUR 365 Personal Injury	-	5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal	375 False Claims Act
130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product	Product Liability		Other	28 USC 157	☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	367 Health Care/	.			☐ 430 Banks and Banking
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	Pharmaceutical Personal Injury			PROPERTY RIGHTS ■ 820 Copyrights	☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation
☐ 151 Medicare Act	330 Federal Employers'	Product Liability			S30 Patent	☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability	368 Asbestos Persona	ı l		☐ 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations
Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	☐ 340 Marine ☐ 345 Marine Product	Injury Product Liability	136820115	LABOR	SOCIAL SECURITY	☐ 480 Consumer Credit ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV
153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	PERSONAL PROPER		Fair Labor Standards	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff)	D 850 Securities/Commodities/
of Veteran's Benefits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle	370 Other Fraud		Act	☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	Exchange
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending		Labor/Mgmt. Relations	863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	890 Other Statutory Actions
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability 360 Other Personal	380 Other Personal Property Damage		Railway Labor Act Family and Medical	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 893 Environmental Matters
196 Franchise	Injury	☐ 385 Property Damage		Leave Act	D 005 101 (105(g))	☐ 895 Freedom of Information
	☐ 362 Personal Injury	Product Liability		Other Labor Litigation		Act
REAL PROPERTY	Med. Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIO		Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure
☐ 210 Land Condemnation	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	☐ 510 Motions to Vacat		Scounty Flor	☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	Act/Review or Appeal of
☐ 220 Foreclosure	☐ 441 Voting	Sentence			or Defendant)	Agency Decision
☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land	442 Employment 443 Housing/	Habeas Corpus: 530 General	-		26 USC 7609	☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
☐ 245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations	535 Death Penalty	3/8/8/1	IMMIGRATION	20 030 7009	State Statutes
☐ 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	☐ 540 Mandanius & Otl	ier 🗇 462	Naturalization Application		
	Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition		Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee	İ	
	Other	560 Civil Detainee -		(Prisoner Petition)	:	
	☐ 448 Education	Conditions of	D 465	Other Immigration		
		Confinement		Actions	<u> </u>	
	n "X" in One Box Only)	D1-1-6	1 4 D-i	Transf	ferred from	-1-4
		Remanded from C Appellate Court	Reop	stated or 5 another	er district	
	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	atute under which you a	re filing (1	Do not cite jurisdictional sta		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Differ description of ca	iuse:				
VII. REQUESTED IN		lue to defective me		EMAND S	CUECY VEC only	if demanded in complaint:
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION	, DI	EMAIND 3	JURY DEMAND:	
VIII. RELATED CASE	E(S)					
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE	.,		DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE		SIGNATURE OF A	ORNEY C	OF RECORD		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	2	W.				
RECEIPT# AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 09/11)

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.CP., 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 jurisdicti on 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 aparty, 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; 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 clerks 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 28U.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. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

- 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 dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) 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.