J. Paul Sizemore, Bar #254981 Ruth Rizkalla, Bar #224973 SIZEMORE LAW FIRM, PLC. 2101 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 5290 El Segundo, CA 90245 Telephone (310) 322-8800 Facsimile (310) 322-8811 paul@sizemorelawfirm.com rizkalla@sizemorelawfirm.com Attorneys for Plaintiff 10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 11 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 12 CASEN 12-788 LAURA BLANKENSHIP, 13 COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGE Plaintiff, 14 15 1. MANUFACTURING DEFECT V. 2. FAILURE TO WARN 16 MEDTRONIC, INC.; MEDTRONIC 3. DESIGN DEFECT 17 SOFAMOR DANEK USA, INC., 4. NEGLIGENCE MEDTRONIC VERTELINK, INC., and 18 5. FRAUD 6. INTENTIONAL DOES 1-50, inclusive, **MISREPRESENTATION** Defendants. 7. CALIFORNIA UNFAIR **COMPETITION LAW** DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Plaintiff Laura Blankenship ("Plaintiff"), by and through her counsel, and for her Complaint against Defendants Medtronic Corporation, Medtronic Sofamor Danek USA, 27 and Medtronic Vertelink ("Medtronic") alleges as follows: 1

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES



NATURE OF ACTION

This is a products liability case arising out of injuries caused by the illegal off-1. label promotion of a medical drug manufacturer. To cure her neck and back pain, Laura Blankenship underwent a surgery wherein the surgeon used Infuse Bone Graft and LT-Cage, (collectively known as "Infuse"), manufactured by Defendant Medtronic. Infuse had only been approved for a limited surgical procedure, yet Medtronic illegally promoted it for a number of off-label procedures. The surgeon in this case used Infuse in an off-label manner. The surgery failed to remedy Plaintiff's condition and her pain has only been exacerbated. In July of 2011, the prominent medical journal, The Spine Journal, dedicated its entire 12 journal to publishing numerous articles regarding the risks associated with Infuse. The Journal's articles discuss Medtronic's failure to accurately report the side effects from its clinical trials; Medtronic's failure to report that many of the authors who studied and promoted Infuse had significant financial ties to Medtronic; that Infuse can lead to severe side effects.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

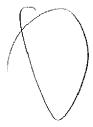
- 2. Original subject matter jurisdiction in this Court is appropriate pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1332 because the parties are diverse and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.
- Venue is appropriate in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1391(a) 3. and 18 U.S.C. Section 1965 because Defendants either reside or transact business in this district, or alternatively, this district is where a substantial part of the events or

omissions giving rise to the claim have occurred.

THE PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff Laura Blankenship is, and all times herein mentioned was, a resident of Missouri.
- 5. Defendant Medtronic, Inc. is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, with its principal place of business in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Defendant Medtronic, Inc. maintains offices and is engaged in business in the State of California. Defendant Medtronic, Inc. maintains a distribution center in Riverside County, California, that is responsible for processing Medtronic's customer orders for Medtronic's Spine businesses.
- 6. Defendant Medtronic Sofamor Danek USA, Inc. is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Tennesee, with its principle place of business in Memphis, Tennessee. Defendant Medtronic Sofamor Danek USA, Inc. conducts business in the State of California.
- 7. Defendant Medtronic Vertelink, Inc. is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, with its principal place of business in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Defendant Medtronic Vertelink, Inc. is engaged in business in the State of California.
- 8. Defendants Medtronic Inc., Medtronic Sofamor Danek USA, Inc., and Medtronic Vertelink, Inc., collectively known as "Medtronic" are now, and at all times mentioned in this complaint, were, in the business of designing, manufacturing,

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge R. Gary Klausner and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Frederick F. Mumm.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

CV12- 7884 RGK (FFMx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge

NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

Western Division 312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Southern Division
411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516

Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134 Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

United States District Court

for the

Central District of California Civil Action 1217884-RGK
(FFMX) LAURA BLANKENSHIP Plaintiff(s) ٧, MEDTRONIC, INC.; MEDTRONIC SOFAMOR DANEK USA, INC., MEDTRONIC VERTELINK, INC., and DOES 1-50, inclusive. Defendant(s)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: J. Paul Sizemore, Bar #254981

Ruth Rizkalla, Bar #224973 SIZEMORE LAW FIRM, PLC. 2101 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 5290 El Segundo, CA 90245

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the count.

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CLERK OF COURT
MARHYN DA' SEP 13 2012

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box LAURA BLANKENSHI	ומ	DEFENDANTS MEDTRONIC, INC.; MEDTRONIC SOFAMOR DANEK USA, INC., MEDTRONIC VERTELINK, INC., and DOES 1-50, inclusive								
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.)				Attorneys (if Known)						
SIZEMORE LAW FIRM, 2101 Rosecrans Avenue, S (310) 322-8800	PLC: Suite 5290, El Segundo, CA 9024	S								
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION	N (Place an X in one box only.)			IP OF PRINCIPAL PART one box for plaintiff and o			Only	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☐ 13 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		PTF DEF Citizen of This State				PTF □ 4	DEF EM 4			
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant M4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)			Citizen of Another State 12 12 Incorporated and Principal Place 15 15 of Business in Another State							
			Çitizen or Subject o	of a Foreign Country 🔲 3	□3	Foreign Nation	·	Ω6	O 6	
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in on	e box only.)									
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V. REQUESTED IN COMPL	AINT: JURY DEMAND: &	Yes 🗆	No (Check 'Yes' or	nly if demanded in complai	nt.)					
CLASS ACTION under F.R.C.	.P. 23: Yes (No		₩ мо	NEY DEMANDED IN C	OMPL/	AINT: \$ 75,000+			***********	
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VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place	e an X in one box only)	21-1-1113-1-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11			· .		<u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>			
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El 450 Commerce/ICC	☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	13313	Liability	371 Truth in Lending		Habeas Corpus	Relation			
Rates/etc.	☐ 150 Recovery of	□ 320	Assault, Libel &	☐ 380 Other Personal			☐ 730 Labor/M	~		
☐ 460 Deportation	Overpayment &	CT 330	Slander Fed Employers'	Property Damage			Reportir		. 6	
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☐ 480 Consumer Credit	□ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	11.1345	Marine Product Liability	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC		Prison Condition	Litigatic			
[] 490 Cable/Sat TV	Student Loan (Excl.	□ 350	Motor Vehicle	158	· Parane	DRFEITURE/	□ 791 Empl. R		2.	
 ☐ 810 Selective Service ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ 	Veteraris)	□ 355	Motor Vehicle	☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157		PENALTY Agriculture	Security PROPERTY		HTS	
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[] 875 Customer Challenge 12	Veteran's Benefits	12.300	Injury	☐ 441 Voting	1	Drug	∃ 830 Patent			
USC 3410	☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	□ 362	Personal Injury-	1 442 Employment	□ 625	Drug Related	340 Tradema		vérmice (150	
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CV-71 (05/08)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: I If yes, list case number(s):	Has this action been p	reviously filed in this court at	ad dismissed, remanded or closed? Is No □ Yes				
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: HI If yes, list case number(s):	ave any cases been pro	eviously filed in this court tha	at are related to the present case? to No 🗆 Yes				
П	ns, happenings, or events; or ly related or similar questions of law and fact; or ation of labor if heard by different judges; or and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.						
IX. VENUE: (When completing t							
Check here if the government	x; California County of the supplies of couple	outside of this District; State in overs is a named plaintiff. If	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides. this box is checked, go to item (b).				
County in this District:*	Marie de la companya	a marininga mar	California County outside of this District, State, if other than California, or Foreign Country				
	. •		MISSOURI				
(b) List the County in this District ☐ Check here if the government	a; California County o its agencies or emple	outside of this District; State i	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. If this box is checked, go to item (e).				
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country				
Los Angelo	.\$						
(c) List the County in this Distric Note: In land condemnation	_		f other than California; or Foreign Courtry, in which EACH claim arose.				
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country				
	VALUE		Missouri				
* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bern Note: In land condemnation cases.	ardino, Riverside, V	entura, Santa Barbara, or S rract of Jund involved	ian Luis Obispo Counties				
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PRO PER):			Date 9/12/2012				
or other papers as required by I	aw. This form, appro-	ved by the Judicial Conference	mation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed ing the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)				
Key to Statistical codes relating to	Social Security Cases	**************************************					
Nature of Suit Code	e Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of	Cause of Action				
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))					
862	ВІ.	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)					
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))					
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))					
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.					
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))					

CV-71 (05/08)