### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO WESTERN DIVISION

DESAREE NICOLE LEE JOHNSON,	) Civil Action No.:
Plaintiff,	) Judge:
v.	)
BAYER HEALTHCARE PHARMACEUTICALS INC.,	COMPLAINT WITH JURY DEMAND
Defendant.	) )

Plaintiff Desaree Nicole Lee Johnson ("Plaintiff"), by and through the undersigned attorneys, hereby bring this cause of action for personal injuries suffered as a proximate result of Plaintiff Desaree Johnson being prescribed and using the defective and unreasonably dangerous product Mirena® (levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system). At all times relevant hereto, Mirena® was manufactured, designed, formulated, tested, packaged, labeled, produced, created, made, constructed, assembled, marketed, advertised, distributed and sold by Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Bayer").

#### **PARTIES AND CITIZENSHIP**

- 1. At all relevant times hereto, Plaintiff Desaree Johnson was a resident and citizen of Chesapeake, Ohio.
- 2. Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Inc., is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, having a principal place of business at 6 West

Belt Road, Wayne, New Jersey 07470. Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc., can be served with process through its registered agent for service of process in Ohio, Corporation Service Company, 50 West Broad St., Suite 1800, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

- 3. Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. was formerly known as Berlex, Inc., which was formerly known as Berlex Laboratories, Inc.
- 4. Berlex Laboratories, Inc. and Berlex, Inc. were integrated into Bayer HealthCare AG and operate as an integrated specialty pharmaceuticals business under the new name, Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- 5. Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Inc. is the holder of the approved New Drug Application (NDA) for contraceptive device Mirena®.
- 6. Bayer is in the business of designing, manufacturing, marketing, formulating, testing, packaging, labeling, producing, creating, making, constructing, assembling, advertising, and distributing prescription drugs and women's healthcare products, including the intrauterine contraceptive system, Mirena®.
- 7. Bayer does business in Ohio through the sale of Mirena® and other prescription drugs in the state.
- 8. At all times relevant, Defendant was engaged in the business of developing, designing, licensing, manufacturing, distributing, selling, marketing, and/or introducing into interstate commerce throughout the United States, either directly or indirectly through third parties, subsidiaries or related entities, the contraceptive device, Mirena®.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 9. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, because the amount in controversy as to the Plaintiff exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and because Defendant is incorporated and has its principal places of business in states other than the state in which the named Plaintiff resides.
- 10. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the remaining common law and state claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 11. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred, in part, in the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division.

### **FACTS**

- 12. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:
- 13. Mirena® is an intrauterine system that is inserted by a healthcare provider during an office visit. Mirena® is a T-shaped polyethylene frame with a steroid reservoir that releases  $20 \,\mu\text{g}/\text{day}$  of levonorgestrel, a prescription medication used as a contraceptive.
- 14. The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Defendants' New Drug Application for Mirena® in December 2000. Today, more than 2 million women in the United States use Mirena®. It has been used by more than 15 million women worldwide.
- 15. The system releases levonorgestrel, a synthetic progestogen, directly into the uterus for birth control. Defendants admit "i]t is not known exactly how Mirena works," but provide that Mirena® may thicken cervical mucus, thin the uterine lining, inhibit sperm movement and reduce sperm survival to prevent pregnancy.

- 16. The Mirena® intrauterine system ("IUS") is designed to be placed within seven (7) days of the first day of menstruation and is approved to remain in the uterus for up to five (5) years. If continued use is desired after five years, the old system must be discarded and a new one inserted.
- 17. The package labeling recommends that Mirena® be used in women who have had at least one child.
- 18. Mirena®'s label does not warn about spontaneous migration of the IUS, but only states that migration may occur if the uterus is perforated during insertion.
- 19. Mirena®'s label also describes perforation as an "uncommon" event, despite the numerous women who have suffered migration and perforation post-insertion, clearly demonstrating this assertion to be false.
- 20. Defendant has a history of overstating the efficacy of Mirena® while understating the potential safety concerns.
- 21. In or around December 2009, Defendant was contacted by the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC) regarding a consumer-directed program entitled "Mirena Simple Style Statements Program," a live presentation designed for "busy moms." The Simple Style program was presented in a consumer's home or other private setting by a representative from "Mom Central", a social networking internet site, and Ms. Barb Dehn, a nurse practitioner, in partnership with Defendants.
- 22. This Simple Style program represented that Mirena® use would increase the level of intimacy, romance and emotional satisfaction between sexual partners. DDMAC determined

these claims were unsubstantiated and, in fact, pointed out that Mirena®'s package insert states that at least 5% of clinical trial patients reported a decreased libido after use.

- 23. The Simple Style program script also intimated that Mirena® use can help patients "look and feel great." Again, DDMAC noted these claims were unsubstantiated and that Mirena® can cause a number of side effects, including weight gain, acne, and breast pain or tenderness.
- 24. The portion of the Simple Style script regarding risks omitted information about serious conditions, including susceptibility to infections and the possibility of miscarriage is a woman becomes pregnant on Mirena®.
- 25. Finally, Defendant falsely claimed that Defendant's product required no compliance with a monthly routine.
  - 26. Plaintiff Desaree Johnson is currently 21 years-old.
- 27. Plaintiff had the Mirena® IUS inserted on or about May 12, 2009, by Dr. Aaron Scaife in Ironton, Ohio. While she suffered some mild discomfort and bleeding, the insertion was uncomplicated.
  - 28. Plaintiff underwent a pelvic ultrasound which confirmed IUD placement.
- 29. On or about March 24, 2010, as the result of pelvic pain, Plaintiff underwent a hysteroscopy.
- 30. Under general anesthesia, the hysteroscopy was performed "in order to find the IUD that was believed to be in the uterus due to prior ultrasound." However, no IUD was seen in the uterus, and Dr. Scaife noted a perforation to the uterus.

- 31. Dr. Scaife scrubbed out of the procedure to obtain consent from Plaintiff's family to perform a laparoscopy. Upon performing the laparoscopy, the IUD was found embedded in the omentum, inferior to the liver. It was removed. Evidence of endometriosis was noted.
  - 32. Shortly thereafter, Plaintiff became pregnant.
- 33. However, on November 3, 2010, Plaintiff presented to the Emergency Department at Cabell Huntington Hospital, suffering from a vaginal bleeding.
- 34. Plaintiff underwent an ultrasound which demonstrated a non-viable pregnancy. Plaintiff fears she may now be infertile.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION PRODUCT DEFECT IN DESIGN OR FORMULATION OHIO REVISED CODE § 2307.75

- 35. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation of this Complaint in each of the foregoing paragraphs inclusive, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.
- 36. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant manufactured, designed, formulated, produced, created, made, constructed and/or assembled Mirena®, used by Plaintiff.
- 37. Defendant's Mirena® was defective in that at the time Mirena® left the control of Defendant, the foreseeable risks associated with its design or formulation exceeded the benefits associated with that design or formulation.
- 38. Mirena® was in an unsafe, defective, and inherently dangerous condition which was unreasonably dangerous to its users and, in particular, Plaintiff.
- 39. At all times herein mentioned, Mirena® was in a defective condition and unsafe, and Defendant knew, had reason to know, or should have known that said Mirena® was

defective and unsafe, especially when used as instructed and in the form and manner as provided by Defendant.

- 40. The nature and magnitude of the risk of harm associated with the design and formulation of Mirena®, including uterine migration and perforation, is high in light of the intended and reasonably foreseeable use of Mirena® as a reversible form of contraceptive.
- 41. It is highly unlikely that Mirena® users would be aware of the risks associated with Mirena® through either warnings, general knowledge or otherwise. Plaintiff was not aware of said risks.
- 42. The likelihood was high that the design or formulation would cause the harm of uterine migration and perforation, in light of the intended and reasonably foreseeable use of Mirena® as a reversible form of contraceptive.
- 43. The design or formulation did not conform to any applicable public or private product standard that was in effect when Mirena® left the control of its manufacturer, the Defendant.
- 44. The design or formulation of Mirena® is more dangerous than a reasonably prudent consumer would expect when used in the intended or reasonable foreseeable manner as a reversible form of contraceptive. It was more dangerous than Plaintiff expected.
- 45. The intended or actual utility of Mirena® is not of such benefit to justify the risk of uterine migration, perforation and even infertility.
- 46. There was both technical and economic feasibility, at the time Mirena® left Defendants' control, of using an alternative design or formulation that would not cause uterine migration or perforation.

- 47. The defective design or formulation of Mirena® was not caused by an inherent characteristic of the Mirena® which is a generic aspect of all contraceptive medications that cannot be eliminated without substantially compromising Mirena®' usefulness or desirability and which is recognized by the ordinary person. This is demonstrated by numerous safer alternative therapies that are available on the market to prevent contraception, without the harmful side effects that can result from Mirena® use.
- 48. A practical and technically feasible alternative design or formulation was available that would have prevented the harm for which Plaintiff suffered.
- 49. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff for the manufacturing, designing, formulating, producing, creating, making, constructing, and/or assembling a product that is defective in design and formulation.

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION PRODUCT DEFECT DUE TO INADEQUATE WARNING AND/OR INSTRUCTION OHIO REVISED CODE § 2307.76

- 50. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation of this Complaint in each of the foregoing paragraphs inclusive, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.
- 51. Defendant had a duty to warn Plaintiff of the risks associated with Mirena®, namely, the risk of spontaneous migration and uterine perforation.
- 52. Defendants knew, or in the exercise or reasonable care, should have known about the risk of spontaneous migration and uterine perforation.
- 53. Defendants failed to provide warnings or instructions that a manufacturer exercising reasonable care would have provided concerning the risk of spontaneous migration

and uterine perforation, in light of the likelihood that their product would cause spontaneous migration and uterine perforation, for which Plaintiff suffered.

- 54. Defendants' Mirena® is defective due to inadequate post-marketing warning or instruction.
- 55. Defendants knew, or in the exercise or reasonable care, should have known about the risk that their Mirena® causes spontaneous migration and uterine perforation.
- 56. Defendants failed to provide post-marketing warnings or instructions that a manufacturer exercising reasonable care would have provided concerning the risk of spontaneous migration and uterine perforation, in light of the likelihood that the product causes spontaneous migration and uterine perforation, for which Plaintiff suffered.
- 57. Defendants' product does not contain a warning or instruction regarding spontaneous migration and uterine perforation for normal healthy individuals.
- 58. The risk of spontaneous migration and uterine perforation is not an open and obvious risk or a risk that is a matter of common knowledge in regards to Mirena®.
- 59. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff, for the manufacturing, designing, formulating, producing, creating, making, constructing, and/or assembling a product that is defective due to inadequate warning or instruction.

### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION PRODUCT DEFECT IN FAILURE TO CONFORM TO REPRESENTATIONS OHIO REVISED CODE § 2307.77

60. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation of this Complaint in each of the foregoing paragraphs inclusive, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

- 61. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation of this Complaint in each of the foregoing paragraphs inclusive, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.
- 62. The Defendant's product was defective in that, when it left the control of Defendant, the product did not conform to representations made by Defendant.
  - 63. Said representations are false, misleading, and inaccurate.
- 64. Defendant describes and represents that their product has characteristics that simply do not conform to reality. Rather than acknowledging that Defendant's product causes spontaneous migration and uterine perforation, Defendants describe Mirena® as being safe.
- 65. These representations are in stark contrast to the spontaneous migration and uterine perforation that Mirena® does actually cause.
- 66. While Plaintiff believes and avers that Defendant acted negligently and recklessly in making the representations, in the event Defendant is not found to have acted negligently or recklessly, Defendant is still liable for the damages and injuries suffered by Plaintiff pursuant to ORC § 2307.77.
- 67. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff for the manufacturing, designing, formulating, producing, creating, making, constructing, and/or assembling a product that is defective in that it did not conform, at the time it left the control of Defendant, to representations made by Defendant.

# FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION PUNATIVE DAMAGES OHIO REVISED CODE § 2307.80

- 68. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation of this Complaint in each of the foregoing paragraphs inclusive, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.
- 69. Plaintiff's injury was the result of misconduct of Defendant that manifested a flagrant disregard of the safety of persons who might be harmed by the product in question.
- 70. Defendant fraudulently and in violation of applicable regulations of the FDA withheld from the FDA information known to be material and relevant to the harm that the Plaintiff suffered or misrepresented to the FDA information of that type.
- 71. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff for punitive damages, for the manufacturing, designing, formulating, producing, creating, making, constructing, and/or assembling a product that is defective under the Ohio Product Liability Act.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendant for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

### **JURY DEMAND**

A jury trial is requested.

Dated: November 2, 2012 Respectfully submitted,

s/ Dawn M. Chmielewski\_

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Counsel for Plaintiff Desaree Nicole Lee Johnson

### $_{\text{SJS }44}$ (Rev. 12/07) Case: 1:12-cv-00852-SSB-KLL Doc #:11 Filed: 11/02/12 Page: 1 of 1 PAGEID #: 13

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 THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS		
Desaree Nicole Lee Jol	nnson	Bayer Healthc	Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc.,		
•	e of First Listed Plaintiff Lawrence EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	NOTE: IN LA	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.		
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name	e, Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Known)			
Dawn M. Chmielewski,	Climaco Wilcox Peca Tarantino & Ga	rofoli			
	uare, Suite 1950 Cleve., OH 44113				
II. BASIS OF JURISI	OICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF  (For Diversity Cases Only)		(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)		PTF DEF  1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In Thi	PTF DEF rincipal Place	
☐ 2 U.S. Government	<b>▼</b> 4 Diversity	Citizen of Another State	□ 2 □ 2 Incorporated and I		
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		of Business In	Another State	
		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	□ 3 □ 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
☐ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJUR		☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 400 State Reapportionment	
□ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	□ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ 700 Airplane Product Property Damag Product Liability □ 370 Other Personal Property Damag Product Liability □ 385 Property Damag Product Liability □ 370 Other Personal Property Damag	-   620 Other Food & Drug ce   625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881   630 Liquor Laws   640 R.R. & Truck   650 Airline Regs.   660 Occupational Safety/Health   690 Other   10 Fair Labor Standards Act   720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations   730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act   740 Railway Labor Act   790 Other Labor Litigation   791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act    IMMIGRATION   462 Naturalization Application   463 Habeas Corpus -	□ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark  SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	410 Antitrust   430 Banks and Banking   450 Commerce   460 Deportation   470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations   480 Consumer Credit   490 Cable/Sat TV   810 Selective Service   850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange   875 Customer Challenge   12 USC 3410   890 Other Statutory Actions   891 Agricultural Acts   892 Economic Stabilization Act   893 Environmental Matters   894 Energy Allocation Act   895 Freedom of Information Act   900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice   950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
<b>№</b> 1 Original <b>□</b> 2 R	tate Court Appellate Court	Reopened anot	nsferred from her district cify)		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you a 28 U.S.C. § 1332	are filing (Do not cite jurisdictio	nal statutes unless diversity):		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Brief description of cause: Mirena Products Liability				
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTIO UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: : ✓ Yes ☐ No	
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	SE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 11/02/2012	signature of a s/ Dawn M. Ch	ttorney of record nmielewski			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY					
RECEIPT#	AMOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE	

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Ohio				
Desaree Nicole Le	ee Johnson	) ) )		
Plaintiff(s	1	- )		
	)	Civil Action No.		
V.		) CIVII ACTION NO.		
Bayer Healthcare Pharm		) ) ) - )		
	SUMMONS	S IN A CIVIL ACTION		
To: (Defendant's name and address)	Bayer Healthcare Pha c/o Corporation Servic 50 West Broad St., Su Columbus, Ohio 4321	e Company ite 1800		
A lawsuit has been file	d 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:  Dawn M. Chmielewski, Esq.				
	Climaco, Wilcox, Peca 55 Public Square, Suit Cleveland, Ohio 44113			
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 court.				
		CLERK OF COURT		
Date:		Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk		

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (nan	ne of individual and title, if ar	ny)			
was red	ceived by me on (date)		·			
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the ind	lividual at (place)			
			on (date)	; or		
	☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (name)					
			, a person of suitable age and discretion who res	ides there,		
	on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or I served the summons on (name of individual),					
	designated by law to a	accept service of process	s on behalf of (name of organization)			
			on (date)	; or		
	☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because					
	☐ Other ( <i>specify</i> ):					
	My fees are \$	for travel and S	\$ for services, for a total of \$	0.00		
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.					
Date:		_				
			Server's signature			
		_	Printed name and title			
		_	Server's address			

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: