

Entire Opioid Supply Chain Faces First Test in New York Case

Co-Founder and Managing Partner [Harry Nelson](#) was interviewed by [Bloomberg Law](#) regarding the first lawsuit putting the entire opioid supply chain on trial.

From the article:

All prior cases, including an Oklahoma state lawsuit and federal multi-district litigation that started in Ohio, wound up taking to court a fraction of the companies that were initially sued. Most parties reached settlements in those cases before trials began.

This time, cities, counties, and New York state will make their case against all of the players, barring a last-minute settlement. The plaintiffs are suing pharmacies, drug distributors and manufacturers for their role in the opioid crisis. They're seeking massive financial payouts to go toward abating the epidemic in communities around New York state.

"This case is significant," said Harry Nelson, founder of the Los Angeles-based health-care firm Nelson Hardiman, who is following the case but not involved.

"It will be the first comprehensive case against not only the leading opioid manufacturers but also, for the first time, the major distributors, including McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen," he added. "The trial will give us a view of the evidence to support different theories of liability for the different roles played by distributors and manufacturers in enabling and fueling opioid deaths and other harm."

Plaintiffs' lawyers are eager to connect the dots between those major distributors and the big name pharmaceutical companies, including Johnson & Johnson, Teva, and Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc., as well as major pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens.

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