



ONDER, SHELTON, O'LEARY & PETERSON, LLC

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Jury Awards \$55 Million in 2<sup>nd</sup> Bellwether Talc Trial**

**(ST. LOUIS, MO) May 3, 2016** – After more than eight hours of deliberation, a St. Louis City jury last night awarded our client, Gloria Ristesund of South Dakota, a \$55-Million-dollar verdict. Ms. Ristesund was diagnosed with Stage 1 ovarian cancer and had to have a hysterectomy and her ovaries removed. She is thankfully, currently in remission.

This is the second Bellwether case tried before a St. Louis jury this year. As part of the Bellwether process, the court alternates between Plaintiff and Defendant picks as part of the process in defining which cases should ultimately be compensated. This was a case the Defense chose. But the jury found the evidence undeniable. Johnson & Johnson has misled consumers about the safety of its talcum powder for decades. Internal documents from J & J show it knew of studies connecting talc use and ovarian cancer but, to this day, it continues to market it as safe - neglecting any warning. Meanwhile, our client, Ms. Ristesund, and thousands of other women across the globe must endure the painful diagnosis of ovarian cancer at the hands of Johnson & Johnson.

Researchers began linking talc to ovarian cancer in the 1970's. Harvard University professor and doctor at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, Daniel Cramer, found in 1982 that women who used talc in the perineal region faced a 92% increase in the risk of developing ovarian cancer. He claims Johnson & Johnson was aware of every one of the studies regarding this link for the past 30 to 40 years.

This marks the second multi-million-dollar win in what is sure to be thousands of cases against Johnson & Johnson regarding its talcum powder. As you may recall, in February, a jury awarded the family of Jackie Fox, who died of ovarian cancer last year, a \$72-Million-dollar verdict against Johnson & Johnson.

The Plaintiff was represented by James G. Onder of Onder, Shelton, O'Leary & Peterson in St. Louis, MO; Beasley Allen of Montgomery, AL; Allen Smith, Jr., from Ridgeland, MS.; and Timothy Porter, Patrick C. Malouf from Jackson, MS.

If you would like to set up an interview (face-to-face, phoner or email) with attorney James Onder,  
please call **Theresa Petry** at **314-807-7077** or email [petry@onderlaw.com](mailto:petry@onderlaw.com).