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High Profile Third-Party Litigation Funding Disclosure Order Provides Much-Needed Transparency

WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 7, 2025 – A <u>recent order</u> from United States District Judge M. Casey Rodgers requires disclosure of all third-party litigation funding (TPLF) in a high-profile lawsuit, citing serious issues that can arise when litigation funding stays undisclosed.

The order, entered in *In re: Depo-Provera (Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate) Products Liability Litigation* on July 1st, 2025, provides much-needed transparency into the non-parties who could exercise control over the litigation and participate directly in any court judgment or settlement.

"This order will lift the veil on undisclosed litigation funding that could allow the interests of non-parties to distort and disrupt both the legal process and ultimate outcome of this case," said Alex Dahl, General Counsel of Lawyers for Civil Justice (LCJ).

The order from Judge Rodgers – who recently oversaw the massive 3M multidistrict litigation (MDL) – highlights that MDL proceedings attract litigation funders "with ill motives aimed at preying on litigants." The order requires plaintiffs to produce:

- information on the lender
- the date(s) on which all loans were made
- the total amount of funding received by the plaintiff
- the fees and rate(s) of interest on any funds lent
- and all other material terms of the funding arrangement

LCJ is advocating for a simple, uniform Federal Rule of Civil Procedure (FRCP) requiring disclosure of TPLF contracts in all civil cases – the same type of disclosure the FRCP have required for insurance agreements since 1970.

LCJ has <u>submitted formal comments</u> to the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, which is currently considering whether to promulgate a new rule requiring disclosure of TPLF contracts. A <u>letter</u> signed by 124 companies from a wide range of industries also calls for a new rule to provide consistency in the disclosure of TPLF.

Even as the rulemaking process proceeds, LCJ is urging courts and litigants to AskAboutTPLF in their cases. Only by asking for, and ordering, the disclosure of TPLF agreements can courts and parties understand how the decisions and actions by non-party funders are affecting the course, potential settlement, and ultimate outcome of their cases.

Lawyers for Civil Justice is a national coalition of defense trial lawyer organizations, law firms, and corporations that promotes excellence and fairness in the civil justice system to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of civil cases. Visit <u>askabouttplf.com</u> to learn more about LCJ's work on undisclosed litigation funding.