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**Pennsylvania Poised to be Center of State Court
Yaz®Yasmin®Ocella® Birth Control Litigation**

**Philadelphia Court Establishes Mass Tort Program
for Injury and Death Cases**

Yesterday, Judge Sandra Moser Moss, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, consolidated all lawsuits filed in Philadelphia that involve Bayer's popular birth control pills, commonly known as Yaz® or Yasmin®. Philadelphia is likely to be the country's center for state court litigation involving this popular birth control pill.

The lawsuits allege that Yas® and Yasmin® have risks beyond traditional birth control pills, because they contain DRSP (drospirenone). The plaintiffs say that Bayer was warned by the FDA in the fall of 2008, that Bayer's television ads were misleading and that Bayer's drugs actually had risks beyond those of traditional birth control pills that the ads did not reveal.

DRSP is a different type of hormone that can increase the body's potassium levels and raise the risk of other severe health problems for women who have kidney or cardiovascular conditions.

The plaintiffs say that women who have taken the drug to prevent pregnancy or to treat premenstrual disorder or acne may have suffered severe side effects, including blood clots, strokes, heart attacks and gallbladder disease, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolisms and even sudden death.

Two days ago, the FDA released a letter warning Bayer that there are significant problems in the Berghamen, Germany plant where the drug is manufactured. These problems include contamination of DSRP and other pharmaceutical ingredients in the pill, from the German laboratory where Bayer manufactures the Yaz®/Yasmin® birth control pills that it sells in the United States.

This letter followed a March 2009 inspection of the Bayer plant in Berghamen, Germany that, according to the letter, “revealed significant deviations from U.S. current good manufacturing practices in the manufactures of non-sterile active pharmaceutical ingredients”. In the letter, the FDA says that Bayer concealed data about the drug’s ingredients that should have been revealed to the FDA.

Judge Moss appointed three Pennsylvania lawyers as Liaison Counsel for the plaintiffs, including Michael M. Weinkowitz of Levin, Fishbein, Sedran & Berman in Philadelphia, Daniel N. Gallucci of RodaNast, P.C., Lancaster, and Laura Feldman of Feldman & Pinto, Philadelphia.