



CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

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NEWS RELEASE

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Lawsuit Charges Hormone Cream Manufacturers with Deceptive Marketing

California Women's Law Center Seeks to Force Companies to Properly Label Hormone Creams

Los Angeles – Yesterday the California Women's Law Center (CWLC) filed a lawsuit against 35 companies which manufacture hormone creams containing progesterone and hormones that are chemicals which the US Food and Drug and the State of California have determined can be toxic. *The full text of the lawsuit is available at www.cwlc.org.*

Creams containing the hormone progesterone are available without prescription to women across California. The makers of these creams advertise that their products can be used as an alternative to hormone replacement therapy and to prevent or treat numerous diseases, including osteoporosis and cancer. The FDA has determined that these creams are not "safe and effective," and has moved to sanction many of the manufacturers already. *The FDA letters are available upon request.*

The California Women's Law Center's claim against supplement manufacturers arises from their failure to comply with State law, which requires that products with progesterone must be clearly labeled with a warning that the product contains a chemical known to the State of California to be a carcinogen. The list of additional toxic chemicals found in many of the over-the-counter remedies includes: medroxyprogesterone acetate, testosterone, methyltestosterone, testosterone cypionate, and testosterone enanthate. The lawsuit filed today accuses the supplement makers of false advertising and fraud by concealment, and asks for injunctive relief and damages under the Consumer Legal Remedies Act.

"Women must have the facts before purchasing these over-the-counter creams," said Katie Buckland, CWLC's Executive Director and the plaintiff in the lawsuit. "The State of California has determined that progesterone is a carcinogen under Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986. In an unregulated dosage without proper physician oversight, progesterone can be dangerous to women's health.

"The defendants have repeatedly snubbed their noses at California law, and are luring women into buying their products with false promises without giving them all of the information they need," concluded Buckland.

Attorney Roger Carrick, a veteran lawyer specializing in the enforcement of public health and environmental law, filed the case on behalf of the California Women's Law Center. Carrick called the CWLC's pursuit of the case "an important step for women consumers."

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Mission Statement

The California Women's Law Center works to ensure, through systemic change, that life opportunities for women and girls are free from unjust social, economic, and political constraints.