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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attorney General Camacho announces \$11.9M coming to Guam from finalized Opioid Settlement

February 28, 2022- Tamuning, Guam- Attorney General (AG) Leevin Taitano Camacho announced today the final approval of the \$26 billion opioid agreement with pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson and the nation's three major pharmaceutical distributors – Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen. The defendants will start releasing funds to a national administrator on April 2, 2022, with the first payments expected to be made to Guam by this summer.

“We are delivering on our commitment to secure more resources to address Guam’s drug problem,” said AG Camacho. “Through yet another historic settlement, we will receive \$11.9M to help our people who are struggling with opioid use disorder and co-occurring disorders.”

The agreement marks the culmination of three years of negotiations to resolve more than 4,000 claims of state and local governments across the United States and its territories. It is the second largest multistate agreement in U.S. and Guam history, second only to the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

Fifty-two states and territories have signed on to the agreement. Negotiations were led by Attorneys General Josh Stein (NC) and Herbert Slatery (TN) and the attorneys general from California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Late last year, Governor Leon Guerrero signed into law Public Law (PL) No. 36-64, The Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act. This established an opioid recovery trust fund to receive settlement proceeds; it also created an advisory counsel to direct spending. PL 36-64 also designates the Guam Office of the Attorney (OAG) as the single agency to bring opioid claims on behalf of Guam.

“The single-agency designation allows Guam to receive 100% of its settlement share,” said AG Camacho. “We want to thank Governor Leon Guerrero, sponsoring senator Shelton, and all supporting senators for their assistance in making this happen for our people.”

This is the latest opioid settlement secured by the OAG.

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About a year ago, AG Camacho announced that Guam would receive \$280k from a settlement with consulting firm McKinsey & Company for its role in helping Purdue Pharma and other opioid companies promote their drugs and “turbocharging” the opioid epidemic. Those funds are being directed toward service providers to assist with drug treatment and recovery efforts; outreach and education on addiction; and data gathering which will assist in securing additional resources in the future.

In addition to paying settlement proceeds, Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen must:

- Establish a centralized independent clearinghouse to provide all three distributors and state regulators with aggregated data and analytics about where drugs are going and how often, eliminating blind spots in the current systems used by distributors.
- Use data-driven systems to detect suspicious opioid orders from customer pharmacies.
- Terminate customer pharmacies’ ability to receive shipments, and report those companies to state regulators, when they show certain signs of diversion.
- Prohibit shipping of and report suspicious opioid orders.
- Prohibit sales staff from influencing decisions related to identifying suspicious opioid orders.
- Require senior corporate officials to engage in regular oversight of anti-diversion efforts.

Johnson & Johnson must:

- Stop selling opioids.
- Not fund or provide grants to third parties for promoting opioids.
- Not lobby on activities related to opioids.
- Share clinical trial data under the Yale University Open Data Access Project.

The OAG is actively involved in other opioid-related lawsuits. These efforts are led by Chief Deputy Attorney General Shannon Taitano, Deputy Attorney General Fred Nishihira, and Assistant Attorneys General Janice Camacho and Joseph Perez.

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