



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1977

AT
202-739-2014

The Department of Justice today filed a civil antitrust suit charging the Illinois Podiatry Society, Inc. (IPS) with restricting fee competition.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell said that the civil suit, alleging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, was filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago, Illinois.

The complaint alleges that the relative value studies or guides adopted and published by IPS -- which established relative values for particular podiatric procedures and are used by IPS members in determining what fee to charge -- have the effect of fixing, stabilizing, and maintaining fees.

Podiatrists practicing in Illinois are licensed to diagnose and treat disorders of the human foot by all medical, physical, and surgical techniques except administration of general anesthetics or amputation of the foot. There are approximately 700 practicing podiatrists in the State of Illinois, of whom more than 60 percent are members of IPS.

Donald I. Baker, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the suit charges that IPS and its members have for many years combined to violate Section 1 of the Sherman Act by agreeing to adopt, publish, and circulate relative value studies or guides.

OVER

As a result of these activities, the complaint charged that:

- Fees for the sale of podiatric services by members of the IPS have been fixed, stabilized, and maintained at artificial and noncompetitive levels.
- Price competition in the provision of podiatric services by the members of the IPS has been restrained.
- Purchasers of podiatric services have been denied the right to obtain such services at competitively determined fees.

According to the complaint, members of the IPS receive estimated annual revenues in excess of \$35 million.

The suit asks that the Court enjoin IPS from adopting, publishing, or circulating any relative value studies or guides concerning fees and from making any recommendations regarding the calculating of fees charged by members.

#