



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER AT ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

WASHINGTON — Assistant United States Attorneys Charlene Keller Fullmer and Marilyn May were among 303 Department of Justice employees honored today for distinguished public service by Attorney General Eric Holder at the 58th Annual Attorney General Awards Ceremony. Fullmer and May received the Attorney General’s Award For Exceptional Service for their role in the investigation and prosecution of the pharmaceutical company Pfizer. This is the Department's highest award for employee performance. It is one of only two Exceptional Service Awards presented this year.

Held at DAR Constitution Hall, this annual ceremony recognizes both department employees and others for their dedication to carrying out the Department of Justice’s mission. “It is my pleasure to congratulate this year’s Attorney General Award winners and to recognize their extraordinary contributions,” Attorney General Holder said. “Not only is their service to our nation inspiring, it is strengthening the work of the Justice Department at every level and making a powerful difference for people across our country, and far beyond. This year’s awardees exemplify the Department’s finest traditions, and I am privileged, and grateful, to count them as colleagues.”

“Public service has its own rewards, but it is especially gratifying when members of our team are recognized for their dedication and great success on behalf of the United States,” said Memeger. “Charlene’s and Marilyn’s tireless efforts resulted in a global resolution that will protect the public from improper marketing of prescription drugs. Their colleagues and I are very proud of this achievement and recognition.”

In September 2009, Pfizer, Inc., agreed to resolve civil liabilities for its off-label marketing of the anti-psychotic drug, Geodon. The agreement was part of a global settlement announced by Assistant Attorney General Tony West. The Eastern District of Pennsylvania settled allegations that Pfizer illegally promoted Geodon for a variety of off-label uses, marketed Geodon for ineligible patients, and encouraged inappropriate doses.

As part of its settlement with the United States, Pfizer and its subsidiary, Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, agreed to plead to criminal charges for off-label promotion of Bextra, as well as the civil settlement of claims involving the off-label promotion of Bextra, Zyvox, Lyrica, and Geodon. The civil resolution also resolves allegations that Pfizer paid kickbacks to physicians to induce them to prescribe the drugs Aricept, Celebrex, Lipitor, Norvasc, Relpax, Viagra, Zithromax, Zoloft, Zyrtec, in violation of the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute.

Charlene Keller Fullmer has been an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania since November 2007. Marilyn May came to the Eastern District in 1991 as an Assistant United States Attorney and is currently the Deputy Chief for the Civil Division in EDPA.

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