

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

MARY K. JONES, Individually and on Behalf of All
Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

PFIZER INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:10-cv-03864-AKH

Hon. Alvin K. Hellerstein

ECF Case

**MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' MOTION *IN LIMINE*
NO. 11 TO PRECLUDE EVIDENCE OR TESTIMONY IN CONNECTION WITH
CERTAIN STATEMENTS THAT ARE NOT ACTIONABLE AS A MATTER OF LAW**

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15 U.S.C. § 78u-5(c)(1)(A), and (ii) a2

Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 19341

Defendants Pfizer Inc. (“Pfizer”), Jeffrey B. Kindler, Henry A. McKinnell, Frank D’Amelio, Alan G. Levin, Ian C. Read and Allen Waxman (collectively, “Defendants”) respectfully submit this memorandum of law in support of their motion for an order precluding Plaintiffs from advancing as a basis for any Defendant’s liability evidence or testimony in connection with certain allegedly false or misleading statements that are inactionable as a matter of law.

ARGUMENT

As this Court has held, “[t]he purpose of a motion in limine is to allow the trial court to rule in advance of trial on the admissibility and relevance of certain forecasted evidence.” *Great Earth Int’l Franchising Corp. v. Milks Development*, 311 F. Supp. 2d 419, 424 (S.D.N.Y. 2004) (Hellerstein, J.) (citation omitted). “In ruling on a motion in limine, a court may exclude evidence which is ‘clearly inadmissible on all potential grounds.’” *Id.* “While ‘dismissing claims is not the prototypical purpose of a motion in limine,’ such motions have sometimes been addressed on the merits.” *Id.* And “[s]ince evidence offered in support of non-viable legal claims is not relevant, and carries a substantial risk of misleading the jury, a motion in limine is an appropriate vehicle for obtaining an order of exclusion.” *Applera v. MJ Research Inc.*, No. 3:98CV1201 (JBA), 2004 WL 323039, at *1 (D. Conn. Jan. 28, 2004) (citation omitted).

As set forth in detail in Pfizer’s Memorandum of Law In Support of Its Motion For Summary Judgment (“Pfizer Summary Judgment Brief” or “Pfizer SJ Br.”), numerous of the disclosures and statements that Plaintiffs challenge cannot, as a matter of law, support a securities fraud claim under Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Securities Exchange Commission Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder. *See* Pfizer SJ Br. at 38-52. Among other things:

- Pfizer had no duty to disclose that its employees purportedly engaged in the off-label promotion of its products. *See In re Citigroup Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 330 F. Supp. 2d 367, 377 (S.D.N.Y. 2004), *aff'd sub nom. Albert Fadem Trust v. Citigroup Inc.*, 165 F. App'x 928 (2d Cir. 2006). *See Pfizer SJ Br.* at 38-41.
- Pfizer's statements that its policy was to comply with all laws and that it was committed to ethical business practices constituted inactionable "puffery." *See City of Pontiac Policemen's & Firemen's Ret. Sys. v. UBS AG*, 752 F.3d 173, 183 (2d Cir. 2014). (*See Pfizer SJ Br.* at 41-43.)
- Pfizer's statement that it "believed" it had "substantial defenses" to the government's investigation concerning Bextra is not actionable because, among other things, it is (i) a forward-looking statement that is immunized from liability under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act's safe harbor provision, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-5(c)(1)(A), and (ii) a statement of opinion and Plaintiffs cannot, as they must, demonstrate that Defendants did not honestly believe the statement at the time it was made, *see Kaess v. Deutsche Bank AG*, 572 F. App'x 58, 59 (2d Cir. 2014). *See Pfizer SJ Br.* at 43-46.
- Pfizer's description of the government's investigation concerning Bextra as involving "marketing" as opposed to "off-label marketing" cannot form the basis of a securities fraud claim. *See Dalberth v. Xerox Corp.*, 766 F.3d 172, 186-87 (2d Cir. 2014) ("we have never required a corporation to frame its public information with specific adjectives," and "[w]hile Plaintiffs may have desired more detailed or nuanced language, that is not what the law requires"). *See Pfizer SJ Br.* at 46-48.
- Pfizer's statements regarding the safety, efficacy and sales revenue for Geodon, Lyrica and Zyvox were accurate and, therefore, not actionable under the securities laws. *See, e.g., In re Marsh & McLennan Cos., Sec. Litig.*, 501 F. Supp. 2d 452, 470 (S.D.N.Y. 2006). *See Pfizer SJ Br.* at 48-49.
- Pfizer's statements that it maintained effective internal controls over financial reporting were accurate and, therefore, not actionable under the securities laws. *See Pfizer SJ Br.* at 49-50.
- Pfizer's determination that the requirements for a reserve under Financial Accounting Standard 5 were not met until fourth quarter 2008 was an accounting judgment and cannot support a securities fraud claim. *See Fait v. Regions Fin. Corp.*, 655 F.3d 105, 110 (2d Cir. 2011). *See Pfizer SJ Br.* at 50-52.

Because these statements are inactionable as a matter of law, Plaintiffs should be precluded from advancing as a basis for any Defendant's liability evidence or testimony relating to the statements. *See, e.g., Summit Properties Int'l, LLC v. Ladies Professional Golf Assoc.*, No. 07 Civ. 10407(LBS), 2010 WL 4983179, at *5-8 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 6, 2010). In *Summit*

Properties, the defendant filed motions in limine seeking to exclude evidence or arguments relating to the plaintiff's unjust enrichment claim and damages theories, arguing that they failed "as a matter of law." *Id.* at *2. As an initial matter, the court noted that "[m]otions in limine are appropriate for evidentiary or 'purely legal . . . non-record dependent legal issues, like those that could easily be raised in the Rule 12 context.'" *Id.* (citation omitted). The court went on to hold that the plaintiff's unjust enrichment claim and damages theories "fail[ed] as a matter of law," and therefore "precluded [plaintiff] from offering evidence or theories" at trial in connection with such claim and damages theories. *Id.* at *5-8.

Here, as discussed above and in the Pfizer Summary Judgment Brief, numerous of the disclosures and statements that Plaintiffs challenge cannot, as a matter of law, support a securities fraud claim. Accordingly, as was the case in *Summit Properties*, Plaintiffs should be precluded from advancing as a basis for liability evidence or testimony concerning these non-actionable statements. *See Summit Properties*, 2010 WL 4983179, at *5-8; *see also Applera*, 2004 WL 323039, at *1 (granting motion in limine to exclude evidence and arguments relating to Sherman Act claim that failed as a matter of law).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Defendants respectfully request that the Court issue an Order precluding Plaintiffs from advancing as a basis for any Defendant's liability evidence or testimony concerning the non-actionable alleged misstatements identified above.

Dated: Washington, DC
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Respectfully submitted,

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