

KLINE & SPECTER, P.C.

Another verdict returned against J&J in a Risperdal case November 10, 2015

PHILADELPHIA –A Common Pleas jury handed down a \$1.75 million verdict today against a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary in a fourth case charging the company failed to properly warn that the anti-psychotic drug Risperdal was linked to gynecomastia, an abnormal breast growth in adolescent boys.

The verdict came in the case of an autistic Maryland boy who started taking the drug in 2003. Nicholas Murray was represented by Jason Itkin of Arnold & Itkin LLP of Houston, Tex., who recently formed a partnership with Tom Kline of Kline & Specter, P.C., and Sheller, P.C., both of Philadelphia, in representing the largest number of Risperdal victims -- more than 8,000 nationwide.

In three consecutive cases that have gone to verdict to date, a jury has found that Janssen failed to warn about gynecomastia as a side effect of its multi-billion dollar drug which was sold widely for off-label use.

In the first trial, Kline last February won a \$2.5 million verdict in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court for Austin Pledger, another autistic boy who took Risperdal and developed large breasts. In a third case, also tried by Kline, a jury found that Janssen failed to warn doctors.

Kline is currently in the fifth week of a trial representing another Risperdal victim, also in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court. The trial is being held just down the hall in City Hall where Itkin won Monday's verdict.

In today's jury verdict, Itkin urged during his closing speech that the jury hold Janssen responsible for failing to warn about Risperdal's dangers. He told jurors: "When a company hurts a child with special needs, it is our job as a community and a society to hold it accountable and have them take responsibility."