

Drug firms argue against \$1.2B Arkansas judgment

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(AP)—A lawyer for two drug companies told the Arkansas Supreme Court that the state improperly relied on federal regulations in a lawsuit that resulted in a \$1.2 billion award over the companies' marketing of an antipsychotics drug.

The state's [attorneys](#) countered during Thursday's hearing before the high court that Johnson & Johnson and a subsidiary were properly penalized for improper marketing of the drug Risperdal.

A Pulaski County jury ruled against the companies in 2012.

The companies also argued that the state brought the case under a Medicaid fraud law when there were no indications of improper reimbursements.

Sixty-five legislators filed a friend of the court brief saying the law was properly applied.

Johnson & Johnson separately agreed to a \$2.2 billion federal settlement on similar claims.

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