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Attention News Editors:

National Class Action Certified for Canadians Injured by Contact Lens Solution

VANCOUVER, May 28 /CNW/ - In a judgment just released, Mr. Justice Butler of the British Columbia Supreme Court has certified a national class action for Canadians injured by COMPLETE All-In-One Contact Lens Care Solution. The product was recalled from the Canadian market on May 28, 2007 following reports linking it to a serious eye infection known as acanthamoeba keratitis.

The case was brought by Trina Chalmers and Michelle Hutton who were both infected with this disease after using the contact lens solution. The class action was certified against the manufacturers of the product, Advanced Medical Optics, Inc. and AMO Canada Company. Ms. Chalmers underwent six months of round the clock treatments with harsh chemicals in effort to eradicate the infection. Ms. Hutton lost vision in her right eye due to the infection.

Acanthamoeba keratitis is a parasitological infection. Its symptoms may include eye pain or redness, blurred vision, light sensitivity, sensation of something in the eye or excessive tearing. Acanthamoeba keratitis may lead to vision loss, or even loss of the eye, with some patients requiring a corneal transplant. The B.C. Centre for Disease Control recorded 32 cases of Acanthamoeba keratitis in the province between January 2005 and May 2008, with a spike in cases coinciding with the marketing of the Defendants' product. In Ontario, Toronto Western Hospital also recorded a spike in cases, with 41 cases diagnosed at just one hospital over a similar period. The total number of cases across Canada is unknown. Health Canada has recorded 90 complaints of adverse effects related to the contact lens solution. Ms. Chalmers and Ms. Hutton are represented by the Vancouver class action firm, Klein Lyons. Their lawyer, David Klein, says "Our clients are very pleased with the court's decision. It has been exactly two years now since this product was recalled. Canadians rely upon drug companies to ensure that their products are safe and effective. Acanthamoeba keratitis is a very painful and debilitating disease. It is time for the

Defendants to compensate Canadians who have been injured by this product. The decision of Mr. Justice Butler clears the way for Trina and Michelle, and other Canadians like them, to bring this case to trial."

Klein Lyons is one of Canada's most experienced class action law firms in a broad range of areas including pharmaceuticals, defective products and commercial litigation.

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