

## Will Trump HHS Pick Robert F. Kennedy Jr., A Known Vaccine Skeptic, Still Reap Legal Fees From Major Gardasil Lawsuit If He Is Confirmed?

**SUMMARY:** President Trump's nominee to be Secretary of Health And Human Services (HHS) is Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who is known for "[his lengthy history of criticizing vaccines and amplifying conspiracies around them](#)."

In Kennedy's latest financial disclosure, he states that he will "[retain an interest](#)" in fees from lawsuits he referred to Wisner Baum, which claims winning over [\\$4 billion](#) in verdicts and settlements, including those against pharmaceutical drug and medical device makers.

Kennedy, who has stated that Wisner Baum senior partner Michael Baum is one of his "[closest friends](#)," has served as [co-counsel](#) in Wisner Baum's lawsuit alleging that Gardasil—the [widely-used and recommended](#) vaccine against human papillomavirus (HPV)—has harmed consumers through severe side-effects, including cancer.

Kennedy has played an "[instrumental role in organizing mass litigation](#)" against Gardasil, helping to drive related lawsuits outside of the HHS's "[special vaccine court](#)," the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), and into civil lawsuits that could generate more money for law firms like Wisner Baum. Notably, the VICP was created after vaccine lawsuits "[threatened to cause vaccine shortages and reduce U.S. vaccination rates](#)."

The "[first test](#)" of the mass litigation Kennedy helped orchestrate is expected in late January 2025, while his HHS nomination is being considered.

Although Kennedy has stated he will divest from other potential HHS conflicts, he [did not comment](#) on what fees he stands to earn from the Gardasil litigation. While his [letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Government Ethics claimed he would divest from fees earned through federal government cases or the VICP, it is unclear if he could still earn fees from Wisner Baum's Gardasil lawsuits filed in civil courts.

Notably, Wisner Baum offers a "[comprehensive guide](#)" for filing Gardasil lawsuits which suggests that opting out of VICP claims and filing civil lawsuits will yield more damages for clients. Wisner Baum touts its ability to seek additional "[punitive damages against Merck](#)," the maker of Gardasil, through civil litigation, and the firm claims it can find "[smoking gun documents](#)" through civil discovery processes.

**Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Trump's Vaccine Skeptic Nominee To Lead The U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services (HHS), Filed A New Disclosure Stating He Will "Retain An Interest" In Fees From Lawsuits He Referred To Wisner Baum, Which Claims Winning Over \$4 Billion In Settlements.**

## **President Trump’s Nominee To Lead The U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services (HHS) Is Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Known For “His Lengthy History Of Criticizing Vaccines And Amplifying Conspiracies Around Them.”**

**President Donald Trump’s Nominee To Be Secretary Of The U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services Is Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Known For “His Lengthy History Of Criticizing Vaccines And Amplifying Conspiracies Around Them.”** “More than 10 of President Donald Trump’s Cabinet nominees faced a public review last week on the road to confirmation. Almost all will pass with slim margins, but one notable selection is languishing: Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The scion of the Democratic political dynastic family and namesake of former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who ran against Trump in an independent bid for president, had been nominated to lead the Department of Health and Human Services. But no hearing has been scheduled to weigh his selection. [...] The largest roadblock for Kennedy is his lengthy history of criticizing vaccines and amplifying conspiracies around them. Kennedy has described himself as an advocate for ‘medical freedom’ and bodily autonomy but has made a name for himself in the anti-vaccine world.” [U.S. News & World Report, [01/21/25](#)]

## **In His Latest Financial Disclosure, Kennedy Disclosed That He Will “Retain An Interest” In Contingency Fees From Unspecified Cases Handled By Law Firm Wisner Baum, Which Paid Him Over \$856,500 In Referral Fees Through The Year.**

**In His Latest Financial Disclosure, Signed December 21, 2024, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Disclosed Serving As A Consultant For Wisnerbaum, A Law Firm In Los Angeles, California:**

11	WisnerBaum f/k/a Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman	Los Angeles, California	Law Firm	Consultant	9/2016	Present
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[Robert F. Kennedy Jr. OGE Form 278e, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, [12/21/24](#)]

- **Kennedy Disclosed Providing Legal Representation And Referrals For WisnerBaum:**

10	WisnerBaum f/k/a Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman	Los Angeles, California	Provided legal representation and referrals.
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[Robert F. Kennedy Jr. OGE Form 278e, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, [12/21/24](#)]

**Kennedy Disclosed That, Even If Confirmed, He Would “Retain An Interest In Contingency Fee Cases That Do Not Involve Claims Against The United States And In Which The United States Is Not A Party And Does Not Have A Direct And Substantial Interest”:**

8	WisnerBaum f/k/a Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman	Los Angeles, California	Upon confirmation, I will retain an interest in contingency fee cases that do not involve claims against the United States and in which the United States is not a party and does not have a direct and substantial interest. I will divest of my interest in contingency fee cases that involve claims against the United States or in which the United States is a party or has a direct and substantial interest.	9/2016
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[Robert F. Kennedy Jr. OGE Form 278e, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, [12/21/24](#)]

- **A Contingency Fee Is Paid To Lawyers Who Take On And Win Personal Injury Cases—An Ordinary Contingency Fee Is 33% But It Can Be Structured On A Sliding Scale Depending On How Much Money Is Recovered For A Client.** “What is a contingency fee? A contingency fee is one that is only paid when a certain event occurs. When a lawyer works on a contingent basis in a personal injury case, you don’t pay the lawyer upfront or on an hourly basis for their services—payment is contingent on you recovering for your injuries. In such cases, your lawyer works in exchange for a

percentage that will be deducted from the recovery after the lawyer deducts certain ‘fees and disbursements’ from the recovery. The ordinary percentage is 33%, but it can be less, or the contingent can be on a sliding scale, as in something like: 50% of the first \$10,000 recovered; 33% of the next \$40,000; and 20% of everything over \$50,000.” [New York City Bar. accessed [01/22/25](#)]

#### **Kennedy Disclosed Receiving Over \$856,500 In Referral Fees On Contingency Fee Cases From Wisner Baum:**

8	WisnerBaum f/k/a Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman - Law Firm	N/A	Payment of Referral Fees On Contingency Fee Cases	\$856,559
8.1	WisnerBaum f/k/a Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman - contingency fee cases,value not easily ascertainable	N/A		None (or less than \$201)

[Robert F. Kennedy Jr. OGE Form 278e, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, [12/21/24](#)]

#### **Wisner Baum Claims To Have Won Over \$4 Billion In Verdicts And Settlements Over Pharmaceutical Drug And Medical Device Product Liability Claims And Other Cases.**

Wisner Baum’s Slogan Is “Client Focused. Trial Ready. Billions Won.”:



[Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**Wisner Baul Claims To Have Won “Over \$4 Billion In Verdicts And Settlements.”** “Founded in Los Angeles, California in 1985, the law firm of Wisner Baum has earned a reputation for breaking new legal ground, holding major corporations accountable, influencing public policy, and raising public awareness about important safety issues. Our trial experience across a broad range of practice areas includes over \$4 billion in verdicts and settlements.” [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**Wisner Baum States That Its Lawyers “Focus On Commercial Transportation Litigation, Pharmaceutical Drug And Medical Device Product Liability, Mass Torts, And Class Actions.”** “Wisner Baum attorneys have a long track record of successfully handling catastrophic injury cases. Our lawyers focus on commercial transportation litigation, pharmaceutical drug and medical device product liability, mass torts, and class actions.” [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**Wisner Baum Touts Kennedy’s Role As Co-Counsel In Its Lawsuit Against HPV Vaccine Gardasil, With Kennedy Playing An “Instrumental Role” In Suing Vaccine Makers Outside Of A Special HHS Vaccine Court That “Caps Compensation And Limits Vaccine Makers’ Liability,” Potentially Earning More For Firms Like Wisner Baum.**

**As Of January 2025, Kennedy Was Still Listed As A Co-Counsel On Wisner Baum's Site, Which Touted Kennedy's Role In Its Lawsuit Claiming That Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Gardasil Has Harmed Consumers.**

As Of January 22, 2025, Wisner Baum's Website Continued To Have A Profile Page For Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Identifying Him As Co-Counsel For The Firm:



[Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR. | WISNER BAUM CO-COUNSEL**

[Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**In A Video On His Wisner Baum Profile, Kennedy Called Michael Baum—Wisner Baum Senior Partner And Former Managing Partner Of The Firm's Previous Iteration—"One Of My Closest Friends."** "I've been working with Michael Baum and with Baum Hedlund for many many years. And I'm not only professionally but I'm very personal friends, Michael Baum is one of my closest friends." [Wisner Baum via YouTube, [11/20/18](#)]

- **"Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman Changed Its Name To Wisner Baum In January 2023."** [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]
- **Michael Baum, Currently A Senior Partner For Wisner Baum, Was The Managing Partner Of Baum Hedlund Until 2023.** "Michael L. Baum is a senior partner of Wisner Baum (formerly Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman) based in Los Angeles. For 29 years, Michael was the managing partner of Baum Hedlund until he turned over the reins to R. Brent Wisner at the beginning of 2023." [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**Wisner Baum States That Kennedy Is Co-Counsel With The Firm In Its Litigation Over Gardasil, A Vaccine For Some Types Of Human Papillomavirus (HPV).** "Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is co-counsel with Wisner Baum in the Gardasil litigation. Kennedy started working with the firm after the mass toxic tort case against SoCalGas stemming from the gas well blowout in Porter Ranch, California. Since then, he has been an integral part of Wisner Baum's Monsanto Roundup cancer litigation team and the California wildfire litigation team." [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

- **Gardasil Is A Vaccine For Some Types Of Human Papillomavirus (HPV).** "He was of counsel at injury law firm Morgan & Morgan, according to its website, and served as co-counsel with Wisner Baum in ongoing litigation over Gardasil, a vaccine for certain types of human papillomavirus." [Bloomberg Law, [11/25/24](#)]

**Wisner Baum States That "Mr. Kennedy Is Working Alongside Our Firm To Represent Victims Who Experienced Vaccine-Related Injuries After Receiving Gardasil."** "Mr. Kennedy has been fighting for safer vaccines for years. A staunch consumer advocate that has never shied away from fights with corporations that put profit over people, Mr. Kennedy is working alongside our firm to represent victims who experienced vaccine-related injuries after receiving Gardasil." [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**Kennedy Filed A Gardasil Lawsuit With Wisner Baum As Early As 2020.** “‘Before there was Gardasil, there was Vioxx,’ said Mr. Kennedy after filing a Gardasil lawsuit with Wisner Baum in 2020. ‘Merck paid billions to settle civil allegations that it purposely hid Vioxx’s cardiovascular risks. The company also paid \$950 million in fines as a result of their criminal conduct. When Gardasil came along, the boardroom at Merck joked that its HPV vaccine could ‘Help Pay for Vioxx.’” [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

## **Gardasil Has Been The Subject Of Over 80 Lawsuits Alleging Severe Side Effects Including Cancer, Although It Has Been Approved By The FDA, Recommended By Major Public Health Organizations, And Introduced In About 125 Countries.**

**Merck, The Manufacturer Of Gardasil, Has Faced About 80 Lawsuits Claiming The Vaccine Has Caused Severe Side Effects Including Cancer.** “Beginning in 2020, Merck has faced approximately 80 lawsuits over its human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. Claimants allege that Gardasil causes side effects as severe as cancer and that Merck misrepresented its safety and efficacy. Gardasil is designed to prevent infections with certain strains of HPV, which can cause cervical cancer, pre-cancerous cells and genital warts, according to the CDC.” [BioSpace, [05/11/23](#)]

**Gardasil Was First Approved By The FDA In 2006 And About 125 Countries Have Introduced The Vaccine.** “The FDA first approved Gardasil in 2006 for people ages 9 to 26, and in 2018 the agency expanded approval for people through age 45. Around 125 countries have since introduced the HPV vaccines, offering access to one in three girls aged 9-14 worldwide, according to UNICEF.” [BioSpace, [05/11/23](#)]

**“National Or International Regulatory Agencies Or Professional Organizations Recommend Against Using Gardasil,” And The Vaccine Is Recommended By The American Cancer Society, The World Health Organization, And Others.** “No national or international regulatory agencies or professional organizations recommend against using Gardasil. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society, the American Academy of College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the World Health Organization all concur with the FDA’s guidelines that people between the ages of 9 and 45 should receive the vaccine as of 2023.” [BioSpace, [05/11/23](#)]

## **Kennedy, Who “Played An Instrumental Role In Organizing Mass Litigation” Against Gardasil, Would Have “Direct Authority” Over A Special HHS Vaccine Court That Caps Vaccine Makers’ Liability And Could Allow Lawyers To Sue Makers Directly.**

**Kennedy “Played An Instrumental Role In Organizing Mass Litigation” Against Gardasil, With A First Test Case Expected In A Los Angeles Court In Late January 2025.** “Robert F. Kennedy Jr. played an instrumental role in organizing mass litigation against drugmaker Merck over its Gardasil vaccine, a strategy that faces its first test in a Los Angeles court next week, according to two attorneys close to the case and court filings.” [Reuters, [01/18/25](#)]

- **Kennedy, Who Became Involved In Litigation Against Gardasil In 2018 With Attorney Robert Krakow, Who Specializes In Vaccine Injury Lawsuits.** “Details of the Gardasil litigation show how Kennedy took action beyond sowing doubt about the safety and efficacy of vaccines in the court of public opinion and helped build a case against the pharmaceutical industry before judges and juries. Kennedy, a longtime plaintiffs’ lawyer, became involved in the Gardasil litigation in 2018 in collaboration with Robert Krakow, an attorney specializing in vaccine injury cases, Krakow said.” [Reuters, [01/18/25](#)]
- **Kennedy “Championed” Krakow’s Strategy Of Circumventing The HHS Vaccine Court And Suing Vaccine Makers Directly, With Kennedy Recruiting A Network Of Lawyers To The Strategy.** “Krakow saw grounds to sue Merck directly over its human papillomavirus shot Gardasil after handling



some injury claims in vaccine court. He believed there was also evidence that Merck had fraudulently advertised Gardasil as safe, overstating its benefits while concealing knowledge of dangerous side effects. Kennedy championed that strategy among a network of influential lawyers who had taken on major corporations over other products, Krakow said. 'He was a galvanizing force,' Krakow told Reuters. Kennedy's presence in Gardasil strategy meetings helped pique the interest of lawyers whom Krakow would have been unable to recruit on his own, he said." [Reuters, [01/18/25](#)]

**If Confirmed As HHS Secretary, Kennedy Would Have “Direct Authority Over A Special Vaccine Court That Compensates Injuries.”** “Kennedy, who ended his own presidential campaign last year to endorse Donald Trump, awaits confirmation as U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary. The role would give him direct authority over a special vaccine court that compensates injuries.” [Reuters, [01/18/25](#)]

**Under Existing Federal Law, Vaccine Litigation Must Be Filed With A “Special Vaccine Court Run By HHS” That “Caps Compensation And Limits Vaccine Makers' Liability.”** “Under U.S. law, such cases must first be filed with the special vaccine court run by HHS that aims to address claims quickly, but caps compensation and limits vaccine makers' liability. That process had discouraged top lawyers who represent hundreds or thousands of plaintiffs in liability lawsuits with the potential to reap millions, and sometimes billions, of dollars in company payouts.” [Reuters, [01/18/25](#)]

**If Confirmed As HHS Secretary, “Kennedy Could Remove Individual Vaccines From The Vaccine Court,” Enabling Lawyers To Sue Vaccine Makers Directly.** “As HHS Secretary, Kennedy could remove individual vaccines from the vaccine court. Plaintiffs' lawyers could then sue manufacturers directly and pursue a wider set of claims from the outset, said Dorit Reiss, a professor at UC Law San Francisco.” [Reuters, [01/18/25](#)]

**Although Kennedy Divested From Other Potential HHS Conflicts, He Did Not Comment On The Gardasil Litigation As He Told The U.S. Office Of Government Ethics He Would Divest From Cases Involving The HHS's Special Vaccine Court—However, Wisner Baum Touts Its Ability To Earn More Damages For Clients By Filing Civil Claims Outside Of The Vaccine Court.**

**As Of January 2025, Kennedy Did Not Comment On The Gardasil Litigation And It Was Not Clear If Kennedy Would Earn Any Fees From His Work On The Lawsuit—Meanwhile, He Stated That He Would Divest From Other Interests And Investments That Could Conflict With His Role As HHS Secretary.**

**As Of January 2025, It Was “Not Clear Whether Kennedy Would Earn Any Fees Off The Gardasil Cases, As Would Be Customary.”** “Kennedy did not respond to requests for comment on the Gardasil litigation and has not indicated whether he would change vaccine compensation as health secretary. It is not clear whether Kennedy would earn any fees off the Gardasil cases, as would be customary.” [Reuters, [01/18/25](#)]

**According To A November 2024 Filing In The Gardasil Case, Kennedy Is ““Not Presently”” An Active Attorney In The Litigation.** “Despite their long-standing alliance, Baum and colleagues asked the Los Angeles judge to forbid mentioning Kennedy's name in front of jurors. Kennedy is ‘not presently’ an active attorney in the lawsuit, they wrote to the court in November, and his association with Trump ‘risks inciting potentially strong political opinions or biases.’ The judge ruled that Merck's defense team can inquire about Kennedy's relationship to one of Robi's expert witnesses, a former employee of the nonprofit organization he founded, Children's Health Defense. The judge said the questioning can only refer to him in that context, and as “Mr. Kennedy,” not his full name.” [Reuters, [01/18/25](#)]

**Kennedy Stated That He Would Divest In Several Companies That Could Pose Conflicts Of Interest With His Potential Role As HHS Secretary, Including CRISPR Therapeutics, Dragonfly Therapeutics, Amazon, And Apple.** “Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will be pulling his investments from two biotechs if he is confirmed to lead the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As health secretary, RFK Jr. said he would divest interests in several companies—including CRISPR Therapeutics and Dragonfly Therapeutics—within 90 days, according to a Jan. 21 disclosure letter filed with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics. Other companies on the list include Amazon and Apple.” [Fierce Biotech, [01/22/25](#)]

**In A Letter To The U.S. Office Of Government Ethics, Kennedy Stated That He Would Retain Contingency Fee Interests In Cases Approved By HHS’s Ethics Office And He Would Divest In Cases Involving The Federal Government...**

**In A Related Letter To The U.S. Office Of Government Ethics, Kennedy Stated That He Would Resign From His Consulting Arrangement With Wisner Baum If He Is Confirmed As HHS Secretary.** “I have a consulting arrangement to refer cases to the law firm of WisnerBaum f/k/a Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman. Upon confirmation, I resign from that consulting arrangement with WisnerBaum.” [U.S. Office of Government Ethics, [01/21/25](#)]

**In His Letter, Kennedy Stated That He Is “Entitled To Receive 10% Of Fees Awarded In Contingency Fee Cases Referred To The Firm” And He Will Retain A Contingency Fee Interests In Cases Approved By HHS’s Ethics Office.** “Pursuant to the referral agreement, I am entitled to receive 10% of fees awarded in contingency fee cases referred to the firm. I am not trying these cases, I am not an attorney of record for the cases, and I will not provide representational services in connection with the cases during my appointment to the position of Secretary. I will retain a contingency fee interest in cases that the ethics office of the Department of Health and Human Services has determined do not involve the United States as a party and in which the United States does not have a direct and substantial interest. I am entitled to receive a portion of future recovery in these cases based upon the set percentage as set forth in the referral agreement.” [U.S. Office of Government Ethics, [01/21/25](#)]

**...Kennedy Said He Would Divest From His Interest In Cases With Claims Against The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), A “No-Fault Court” Involving HHS That Was Created After Vaccine Lawsuits “Threatened To Cause Vaccine Shortages And Reduce U.S. Vaccination Rates.”**

**Kennedy Stated He Will Divest His Interest In Pending Contingency Fee Cases Involving The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP).** “In addition, prior to assuming the duties of my position, I will divest my interest to receive payment from all pending contingency fee cases that involve claims against the United States, including any claims filed under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP).” [U.S. Office of Government Ethics, [01/21/25](#)]

**The VICP, “An Alternative To Traditional Products Liability And Medical Malpractice Litigation” Concerning Vaccines, Is Handled Through HHS And The U.S. Court Of Federal Claims.** “The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (the ‘VICP’ or the ‘Program’) (42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 et seq.) is an alternative to traditional products liability and medical malpractice litigation for persons injured by their receipt of one or more of the standard childhood vaccines. [...] Individuals who believe they have been injured by a covered vaccine can file a claim against the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims seeking compensation from the Vaccine Trust Fund.” [U.S. Department of Justice, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**The VICP, “A No-Fault Alternative To The Traditional Legal System For Resolving Vaccine Injury Petitions,” Was Created In The 1980s After Vaccine Lawsuits “Threatened To Cause Vaccine Shortages**

**And Reduce U.S. Vaccination Rates.”** “The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is a no-fault alternative to the traditional legal system for resolving vaccine injury petitions. It was created in the 1980s, after lawsuits against vaccine companies and health care providers threatened to cause vaccine shortages and reduce U.S. vaccination rates, which could have caused a resurgence of vaccine preventable diseases.” [Health Resources & Services Administration, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**Wisner Baum Has A “Comprehensive Guide” For Filing Claims Against Gardasil That Suggest That Filing Civil Claims Will Yield More Damages For Clients Than VICP Claims, With The Firm Touting Its Ability To Seek “Punitive Damages Against Merck” And Its Ability To Find “Smoking Gun Documents That Can Expose The Defendants’ Wrongdoing.”**

**Wisner Baum Has A “Comprehensive Gardasil Guide For Those Suffering From Side Effects After The HPV Vaccine”:**

## HOW TO FILE AN HPV VACCINE LAWSUIT

[...]

**OUR COMPREHENSIVE GARDASIL GUIDE FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM SIDE EFFECTS AFTER THE HPV VACCINE**

[Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**In Discussing The VICP, Also Known As “Vaccine Court,” Wisner Baum States That Petitioners May “Opt Out Of Vaccine Court And Elect To File A Civil Lawsuit Against The Manufacturer.”** “Congress created the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP), also known as ‘Vaccine Court,’ to allow petitioners to seek monetary compensation for allegedly suffering injury or death after receiving certain vaccines. [...] Comparatively, if a pharmaceutical drug harms a person, the person has the right to retain an attorney and file a lawsuit in civil court for damages against the drug's manufacturer. This is not the case for Gardasil. Instead, individuals injured by Gardasil must first file a petition in the Vaccine Court, where the manufacturer is not even a party or involved in any way. After a statutory period of time passes, or judgment is rendered, the petitioner can then choose to opt out of Vaccine Court and elect to file a civil lawsuit against the manufacturer.” [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**If you do not receive approval for compensation or choose not to accept the settlement, your attorney can prepare a lawsuit on your behalf in civil court.**



**Preparing Your Case for Civil Court**



[Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]



**Wisner Baum States That Civil Claims For Damages May “Likely Exceed What Is Achievable In Pursuing Compensation In The NVICP” And That The Firm Seeks Additional “Punitive Damages Against Merck.”** “DO I WANT MY CASE IN CIVIL COURT? Claims for damages in civil court may likely exceed what is achievable in pursuing compensation in the NVICP. Civil court proceedings also allow for punitive damages if there is evidence that the vaccine manufacturer acted with malice, oppression, or fraud. Wisner Baum is seeking punitive damages against Merck in the Gardasil lawsuits it is filing on behalf of its clients.” [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]

**In Advocating For The Discovery Process In Civil Claims, Wisner Baum States, “One Thing That Sets Wisner Baum Apart From Other Firms Is The Ability To Find The Needle In A Haystack, Smoking Gun Documents That Can Expose The Defendants’ Wrongdoing.”** “Lawsuits filed in civil court allow discovery to take place, which does not exist in Vaccine Court. Discovery gives the parties an opportunity to collect evidence and depose witnesses from the other side. One thing that sets Wisner Baum apart from other firms is the ability to find the needle in a haystack, smoking gun documents that can expose the defendants’ wrongdoing.” [Wisner Baum, accessed [01/22/25](#)]