

# **EXHIBIT 7**

# KING & SPALDING

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July 12, 2017

## Via E-Mail

Dr. Judy Jarecki-Black  
Head, Patent Prosecution  
and Patent Litigation  
Merial, Inc.  
3239 Satellite Blvd  
Duluth, GA 30096

Dear Dr. Jarecki-Black:

Tom Duley asked me to reply to your June 30 letter occasioned by his June 19 letter on behalf of Abic and Phibro. I serve as chairman of King & Spalding's Business Review Committee, which supervises the firm's ethics compliance.

I have read your letter carefully and have looked into the facts. The firm does not now and for a long time has not represented or advised any Merial entity. No firm personnel who formerly worked on matters for Merial entities is involved in the Abic and Phibro, and the same is true for personnel who have worked on Boehringer Ingelheim matters. The website reference to defending a strict liability and breach of warranty claim against Merial is out of date and should say the firm "represented," not "represents," Merial in that former engagement. It will be corrected.

The firm's former matters for Merial are not the same or substantially related to the Abic and Phibro matter. The same is true for the firm's work for Boehringer Ingelheim entities. In any case, work for Boehringer Ingelheim is not a basis to assert an ethical breach. The firm has always followed the client definition discussed in ABA Ethics Op. 95-390 and ABCNY Ethics Op. 2007-3, namely, the entity actually advised or represented. The firm has never indicated otherwise.

The firm also has not obtained any confidential information belonging to Merial (or Boehringer Ingelheim) pertinent to the Abic and Phibro matter. In addition, the firm's attorneys

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are well aware of and carefully observe their confidentiality and other obligations under the Rules of Professional Conduct.

For these reasons, we are surprised by your letter. We appreciate you would prefer that we drop our representation of Abic and Phibro in this matter. Those companies, however, have relied on our firm and we consider it would be inappropriate to walk away from them without an ethical obligation to do so or any actual risk of harm to anyone.

We realize our decision could have consequences with Merial or Boehringer Ingelheim. We hope not and are prepared to meet and discuss our response and why we consider it the only appropriate course for us to take.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Cirillo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard A. Cirillo

cc.: Thomas E. Duley, Esq.