

# Renowned Criminal Appellate Lawyer Dennis P. Riordan Joins the Defense Team for Dr. Scott Harkonen

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA – This week, well-known criminal appellate lawyer Dennis P. Riordan, of the firm of Riordan and Horgan, joined the team representing former InterMune CEO Dr. Scott Harkonen in the appeal of his 2009 wire fraud conviction for the issuance of a press release.

Understanding the importance of this case for the scientific and medical communities – in addition to patients – Riordan joins lead attorney Mark E. Haddad, Esq., of Sidley Austin, LLP in pursuing Harkonen’s appeal at the Ninth Circuit Court.

“We’re delighted to have Dennis Riordan on the team,” noted Haddad. “His experience and commitment to Dr. Harkonen’s case will be a tremendous asset in the appeal process.”

The 2002 InterMune press release that led to Dr. Harkonen’s conviction announced the preliminary results of a clinical trial for the drug Actimmune. The drug was being tested as a treatment for Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (“IPF”), a deadly lung disease for which there was and remains no FDA-approved medical treatment.

Despite the Department of Justice’s pursuit of 10 years in prison and a \$1M fine for Dr. Harkonen, he was sentenced to just three years of probation, 200 hours of community service, a \$20,000 fine, and six months of home detention at his sentencing hearing in April 2011.

“In flatly rejecting the government’s recommended sentence, the district found no dispute that the InterMune press release accurately cited data from the clinical trial,” commented Riordan. “Medical researchers absolutely have the right to share their opinions about the conclusions to be drawn from their studies. This precedent could seriously impede research into drugs that show promise of combating life threatening diseases.”

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