McKinsey at a Glance

McKinsey & Company is a management consulting firm that works with commercial, government and nonprofit organizations across diverse industries. It has 30,000 employees in more than 130 cities in more than 65 countries. McKinsey has a longstanding policy of not disclosing clients’ names or the advice it gives.

From at least the early 2000s until 2019, McKinsey worked with opioid manufacturers including Purdue Pharma, Endo, Janssen (a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson), and Mallinckrodt. It also advised public agencies and nonprofits on opioid-related work. McKinsey’s involvement in the opioid crisis was revealed in January 2019 with the release of documents from the Massachusetts Attorney General’s litigation against Purdue. In May 2019, McKinsey announced that it would cease all opioid-related business.

In February and March 2021, McKinsey settled lawsuits with all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories over its work with the opioid industry. The settlement totaled $641.5 million and led to the release of approximately 114,000 documents produced in the litigation. The agreement requires McKinsey to retain internal electronic documents for five years and provide conflict disclosures to government clients.

In November 2021, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform began an investigation into McKinsey, particularly its work simultaneously advising opioid manufacturers and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In April 2022, the Committee published an interim staff report that “uncovered significant, years-long conflicts of interest at McKinsey.” A hearing that month examined the report’s preliminary findings and McKinsey’s role in the opioid epidemic.

Key Legal Documents Relevant to McKinsey Opioid Litigation

- Massachusetts complaint v. Purdue Pharma, Sacklers, et al.
- Ad hoc group response Part 1 and Part 2 for Purdue Pharma in bankruptcy court
- Master Complaint from multi-district litigation
- McKinsey multi-state settlement which includes the document repository terms