

**PRESS CONFERENCE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2006
10:30 A.M. PDT (DETAILS BELOW)**

**VIRGINIA MASON MEDICAL CENTER AGREES TO JUDGMENT
AGAINST IT FOR REFUND OF ALL FACILITY FEES PAID BY
PARTICIPATING CLASS MEMBERS**

Seattle, WA, November 2, 2006 – In a stunning development in the first case of its kind in the country, Virginia Mason Medical Center has agreed to entry of a judgment against it requiring it to refund facility fee payments made by over 3200 patients over the past six years and requiring it to forgive any debt those patients may have for facility fee charges that Virginia Mason had assessed to them.

The press conference concerning this judgment will be on Friday, November 3, 2006, at 10:30 a.m., at Phillips Law Group, PLLC, 315 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 1000, Seattle WA (the 10th floor of the building on the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Jackson Street in downtown Seattle) and will include the following:

- Comments by John Phillips regarding this judgment against Virginia Mason, its national significance, and how it breaks new ground for patients as consumers.
- Testimony of DeLois Gibson, the plaintiff and class representative, about why she sued Virginia Mason and how happy she is to have produced a positive result for thousands of other patients.

In the class action lawsuit, brought in January 2005, and which Virginia Mason has fiercely resisted, the plaintiff DeLois Gibson claimed that Virginia Mason acted unfairly and deceptively by failing to tell her about the huge price disparities between Virginia Mason's downtown and satellite clinics. Patients who received services at Virginia Mason's downtown clinics were charged large facility fees that were not charged at its satellite clinics for the same services, often by the same doctor.

By agreeing to a judgment against it, Virginia Mason agrees that it is liable to refund or forgive all the facility fees paid by the thousands of patients who have authorized claims in the suit and who could have received the same services at far lower cost elsewhere within the Virginia Mason clinic system. All this came after Judge Gregory Canova certified a class action over Virginia Mason's objection and rejected Virginia Mason's attempts to dismiss the suit, including its argument that it had no duty to tell its patients about its gross price differentials. Under the judgment, Virginia Mason has also agreed to provide an estimating service to its patients so they will know in advance how much their out-

of-pocket expenses for treatment will be, and it has agreed to clearly inform its patients about pricing at its different locations so that patients can make informed judgments about where to go for treatment.

Said John Phillips, lead counsel for Ms. Gibson and the class of thousands of Virginia Mason patients, “We’re extremely happy with this judgment that the parties have asked the Court to enter. It gives every class member who made a claim a complete recovery, and it requires Virginia Mason to provide the kind of information that patients need so they can make intelligent decisions about their health care – not just information about treatment options, but what the cost of treatment will be. Patients need to know hospital prices – particularly when they vary greatly depending on what door they walk through, so they can be better consumers of health care. This judgment against Virginia Mason is an important step in that direction.”

The attorneys representing the plaintiffs in this case are John Phillips, Matt Geyman and Thomas Loeser of Phillips Law Group, PLLC. To learn more, please call John Phillips at (206) 484-0016 or Matt Geyman at (206) 382-1168 or visit www.jphillipslaw.com.