

COURT & JUSTICE

# Former clients suing KNR accuse doctor of over-billing

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New court filings in the potential class-action lawsuit against KNR claim a Wadsworth doctor overcharged patients, then took reimbursements from settlements negotiated by KNR. (Cory Shaffer, cleveland.com)

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**By Cory Shaffer, cleveland.com, CShaffer@cleveland.com**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Three former clients behind a potential class-action lawsuit against the KNR law firm want to expand their suit to include a Wadsworth doctor accused of over-billing the firm's clients for unneeded medical and then taking bloated reimbursement fees from court settlements.

Sam Ghoubril charged patients that KNR referred to him \$500 for a device that cost him \$27.50, and the law firm negotiated into those patients' court settlements an agreement to take \$500 from the patient's payout and reimburse Ghoubril, plaintiffs' attorney Peter Pattakos said in a request to amend the original lawsuit filed in 2016.

Pattakos says that Ghoubril made profits of nearly 1,800 percent each time he prescribed the devices, and that he treated "thousands of KNR clients."

Ghoubrial was part of a larger scheme where KNR worked with chiropractors and doctors to find clients and overbill them through a series of nominal fees for services they either didn't need, didn't want or in some cases never received. The court filings claim.

Jim Casey, one of two attorneys representing Ghoubrial, sent a copy of a motion they intend to file that says the lawsuit is frivolous. The filing says doctors and hospitals routinely charge patients and insurance companies more for items than the actual cost to the provider and included an invoice from another doctor's office that charged a patient \$1,500 for the same device.

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The lawsuit, which is pending in Summit County Common Pleas Court, says the firm, including partners Rob N. Robert Redick, intentionally deceived and defrauded clients with kickback schemes involving chiropractors and a defunct loan company Liberty Capital Funding.

The law firm charged an "investigation fee" for work that was never performed, and for basic clerical services that were not legally chargeable to clients, the suit says.

KNR has strongly denied the allegations in the lawsuit and countered with a lawsuit accusing one of the firm's lawyers of stealing internal emails and giving them to Pattakos.

The case is being overseen by retired Dayton-area appeals court judge James Brogan, after five previous judges have tried the case themselves.

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