

# Merchants of Death

## The Men Behind The Abortion Pill

APRIL 13, 2023

The abortion pill was first approved for sale in the United States in 2000. In the 23 years since then, it has now become the abortion industry's tool of choice. Most abortions in this country are now performed using the abortion pill.

The story of how the abortion pill was forced on this country is a tale of greed, lawlessness, and evil.

For decades, many of these details had been kept secret by the financiers backing the abortion pill. Recently, however, disputes between the abortion pill's investors have started spilling into court. Their greed has revealed their identities. Now, for the first time, we will unveil the men and organizations behind the scourge of the abortion pill!

## How The Abortion Pill Works

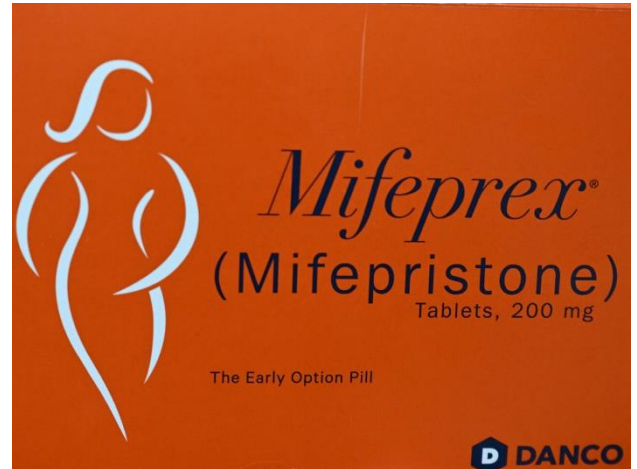
### The Science Of The Abortion Pill

The Abortion Pill contains a drug called Mifepristone. This drug was invented by the French pharmaceutical company **Roussel-Uclaf** in 1980 and was formally classified as RU-486.

RU-486 functions by tricking a woman's body into believing she is no longer pregnant. Pregnancy itself is managed by the female body's endocrine system, which releases specific hormones to transmit messages to organs and systems. These hormones bind with target cells by attaching to their hormone receptors. When this happens, the target cells begin to follow a pre-programmed routine based on the hormone they interact with.

After ovulation, a woman's body begins to produce more and more progesterone. When target cells in her reproductive system bind with this progesterone, they recognize that she may become pregnant and act accordingly. This interaction causes the endometrium (the lining of the uterus) to thicken and facilitate potential implantation. Once a fertilized egg implants in the uterus, the progesterone levels continue to rise, which cues the reproductive system to continue caring for the child. If an egg does not implant, then the progesterone levels in a woman's

body drop precipitously, which causes the uterus to shed its lining (menstruation).



Mifepristone is a *progesterone antagonist*. What that means is that it can bind with a cell's progesterone receptors and block those target cells from recognizing that the body's progesterone levels are through the roof. Once Mifepristone fills these receptors, it becomes impossible for these cells to interact with progesterone.

Mifepristone tricks the body into believing that implantation has not occurred (since this causes progesterone levels to suddenly drop). As a result, the reproductive system stops caring for the baby, ultimately killing the unborn child.

Abortionists follow this dose of Mifepristone by giving women a second drug called Misoprostol, which initiates contractions in a woman's uterus and expels the child's body.

Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers offer a treatment called Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) in an attempt to counteract the effects of Mifepristone. While the abortion industry has denigrated APR, it is based on sound science. In rare cases, pregnant women cannot produce enough progesterone on their own. In these situations, doctors often prescribe additional progesterone treatments in order to elevate the hormone level and prevent a woman from suffering a miscarriage. APR works the same way. Doctors administer a high dose of progesterone in an attempt to raise the hormone level so high that the

reproductive system cannot help but recognize the existence of a pregnancy. In rare cases, abnormally low progesterone levels.

## The Abortion Pill Comes To America

### How The Abortion Pill Was Forced On Us

After French regulators approved the sale of Roussel-Uclaf's RU-486 abortion pill, there was a widespread public backlash against the company. In the face of this pressure, Roussel-Uclaf voted 16-4 in September 1988 to withdraw the abortion pill from the market.

The French Government was furious. Two days later, French Minister of Health **Claude Évin** ordered a Roussel-Uclaf executive to his office and issued an ultimatum: If the pharmaceutical company did not reverse course and immediately resume the distribution and sale of the abortion pill, then the French government would transfer the drug's patent to another company. In the face of this threat, Roussel-Uclaf backed down and resumed distribution.

*"I could not permit the abortion debate to deprive women of a product that represents medical progress. From the moment government approval for the drug was granted, RU-486 became the moral property of women, not just the property of a drug company." – Claude Évin*

After France, the drug was released in more European countries. But across the Atlantic Ocean, abortion activists and investors eyed RU-486 as an opportunity to grow the abortion industry and make a fortune doing it.

### The Abortion Pill Comes To America

Before Mifepristone was approved for sale in the United States, chemical abortions were performed

using a drug called Methotrexate. This drug is commonly prescribed to patients diagnosed with autoimmune diseases and certain cancers. Methotrexate is a folate antagonist, which means that it deprives the body's systems of the folic acid necessary for cellular repair and reproduction. In cancer patients, this drug can block the cancer cells from growing. When administered to pregnant women, it has a similar effect on the unborn child by depriving him or her of folic acid, an essential component for early embryonic development. However, Methotrexate is only around 70% effective at terminating a pregnancy. In the 30% of cases where the unborn child survives this attempted abortion, he or she is usually born with terrible birth defects stemming from the deliberate deprivation of folic acid.

The American abortion industry eyed RU-486 as a "more effective" chemical abortion drug and began working in the 1990s to bring the drug to the United States.

This effort was spearheaded by a man named **Joseph Pike**, who teamed up with **Dr. Richard Anderson's Danco Labs** to secure the rights from Roussel-Uclaf to produce Mifepristone in the United States. But in order to do this, Pike needed money and a lot of it. He created a company called **MedApproach Holdings** to raise the capital necessary to carry the drug through trials and the FDA's approval process.

Pike knew that it would not be easy to get investors. Like the French, the American public was not behind the abortion pill. If the names of the drug's investors became public, Pike knew that the pro-life movement would pressure them into withdrawing their financial support.

Pike created a number of Delaware companies to shield the investors. The names of these companies were **Campenile LLC**, **River Valley LLC**, **West Fork LLC**, and **Shiroyama LLC**. This way, when MedApproach Holdings was forced to reveal its investors, it could name Pike and these other companies (and not the men behind them).

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However, this secrecy began to unravel when Joseph Pike became embroiled in a scandal of his own. In 1996, Pike pled guilty to a misdemeanor forgery charge in North Carolina stemming from an unrelated business deal and was subsequently disbarred. This prompted the other investors behind the abortion pill to begin the process of removing Pike, the managing partner, from the project.

We know how this process went down because it was recently revealed in court documents in two different cases: *Pike v. Freeman*<sup>i</sup>, a lawsuit challenging how Pike was removed, and *Hawkins v. MedApproach Holdings*<sup>ii</sup>, a lawsuit challenging how ownership shares could be sold. These two court cases, combined, detail the process in which Pike was removed from the abortion pill project and, in doing so, reveal the names of many of the investors.

When Pike was being removed from the project, he gave proxy voting rights over to three people who were already invested: **W. Bradley Daniel**, **Dr. Jeffrey Rush**, and **Brian Freeman**. We know that when the vote was held to remove Pike, two other men were also present: **Richard Cusac** and **William Elkus**. Officially, they are listed in court documents as the agents who were representing the investors. However, given the gravity of the vote that was taking place, it is highly likely that these men were the investors themselves.

One of the biggest mysteries of the abortion pill's origin was where **Danco Labs** produced it. From the start, **MedApproach Holding** and **Danco Labs** have kept the location of their labs a secret. The last thing they wanted was for people to learn that abortion pills were being manufactured in their neighborhood...For the longest time, the pro-life movement has struggled to understand how they could have kept this a secret. The revelation of these investor names, however, paints a picture of how this was accomplished.

We know that following their investment in the abortion pill, **Jeffrey Rush** and **Bradley Daniel** teamed up to work on a number of medical real estate deals. Jeffrey Rush became the Chairman of **Pacific Medical Buildings**, which specialized in medical real estate. The two later became embroiled

in a scandal when they were forced to settle a False Claims Act lawsuit accusing them of improperly



*Jeffrey Rush*

obtaining loans and distributing project funds. They, and the other defendants, settled the lawsuit for \$1.1 million in 2019.<sup>iii</sup>

The inclusion of an investor with medical real estate expertise likely explains how the abortion pill project was able to keep the locations of its New York labs a secret...

The **Brian M Freeman** mentioned in these court documents likely refers to the same Brian M. Freeman who was a well-known investment banker specializing in union and employee negotiations.<sup>iv</sup>

The mention of investor **William Elkus** in these court documents likely refers to **Bill Elkus**, who founded **Clearstone Venture Partners** in 1998, right before the abortion pill was approved for sale in the US.<sup>v</sup>



*William Elkus*

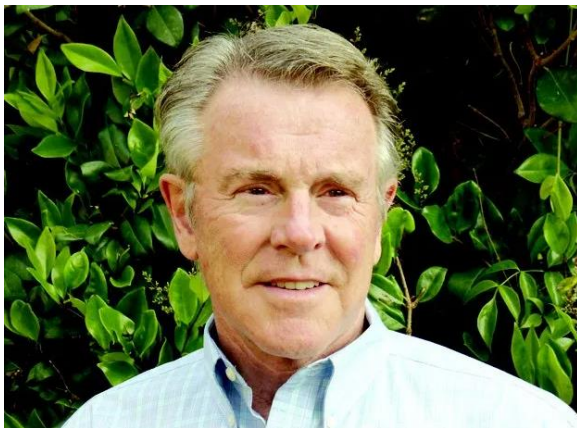
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**William Elkus** was also friends with **Jeffrey Epstein** and previously served as a trustee for the **Jeffrey Epstein Foundation**.<sup>vi</sup>

The Richard S. Cusac mentioned in these court documents<sup>vii</sup> likely refers to the same Richard S. Cusac who was a well-known investor and corporate banker who made a career working for the **National Bank of Detroit, Citibank, The Gulf Bank of Kuwait, Merrill Lynch Investment Banking (London), and Omnicorp**.<sup>viii</sup>



Richard S. Cusac

Based on our reading of these court documents, these are the men who we believe enabled **Danco Labs** to bring the abortion pill to market in the United States. However, as was recently revealed in yet another court case, this approval was improperly granted by the FDA in 2000...

## Challenging The FDA's Approval

### The New Court Case

On April 7, 2023, US District Judge **Matthew Kacsmaryk** issued a long-awaited ruling in the case, *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. US Food and Drug Administration*. In the case, pro-life doctors challenged the FDA's 2000 approval for the abortion drug and subsequent regulatory changes. While the mainstream media has been working overtime to brand this judge as a "radical," Judge Kacsmaryk's

ruling is common sense and plainly lays out why the FDA was wrong to approve the abortion pill in 2000.

How did it take so long for a court to hear a challenge to a drug approval from 2000? As Judge Kacsmaryk lays out in his ruling, the FDA deliberately stonewalled the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine and refused to respond to the organization's challenges against the drug's approval for 16 years. The law requires the FDA to respond to formal challenges within 160 days of receiving them. In this case, the FDA took almost 6,000 days to respond... And even if the statutory window to challenge the abortion pill approval had already been closed, the FDA reopened that window every time it altered the regulations surrounding the abortion pill (which it did just prior to AHM filing its lawsuit).

Judge Kacsmaryk also found that the FDA erred in the process that it used to expedite RU-486's approval. By law, the FDA can only expedite the approval of drugs that treat specific illnesses. In order to fast-track the abortion pill, the FDA classified pregnancy itself as an "illness" and ruled that the abortion pill was a "treatment." Pregnancy is not an "illness," it is a vital process for the continuation of the human species. Because of this ridiculous classification, Judge Kacsmaryk ruled that the FDA improperly fast-tracked RU-486's approval for public sale.

The FDA also improperly pitched RU-486 as a necessary chemical abortion alternative for women who cannot receive surgical abortions. The FDA claimed that there are women who, for one reason or another, cannot safely have a surgical abortion. Therefore, the abortion pill represented their only real opportunity to have an abortion (which, at the time, was classified as a constitutional right). Judge Kacsmaryk eviscerated this logical argument by pointing to a study showing that 18.3% of women who receive chemical abortions require subsequent surgical intervention. How can the FDA claim the abortion pill is necessary to "treat patients unresponsive to, or intolerant of," surgical abortions if nearly 1 in 5 women who take the abortion pill later require surgical intervention?

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Lastly, Judge Kacsmaryk refutes the FDA's claim that the abortion pill is "safe and effective" by citing a litany of studies that show the exact opposite. Specifically, the judge calls attention to the studies that prove that the abortion pill is actually more dangerous than surgical abortions, with women who receive chemical abortions reporting four times as many adverse events as those who undergo surgical abortions.



### MORE ADVERSE EVENTS

Adverse events are 4X higher in chemical abortions than surgical abortions



### EMERGENCY ROOM

Chemical abortions are 53% more likely to send women to the emergency room than surgical abortions



### DEADLY CONSEQUENCES

At least 26 women have died after taking the abortion pill. More than 1 in 5 abortion pill adverse events are life-threatening or fatal

Judge Kacsmaryk stayed his ruling for a week to give the Biden administration an opportunity to appeal (which it did). A judge in Washington State also released a ruling in a completely different case ordering the FDA to make no changes to its abortion pill regulations. However, because this other case is in a different federal circuit and addresses a different question, it is unlikely that it can override Judge Kacsmaryk's order.

On April 12, 2023, the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals issued a partial stay on Judge Kacsmaryk's decision. Since so much time has passed, the three-judge panel was skeptical that the law would allow the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine to challenge the drug's 2000 approval. For that reason, the panel temporarily blocked the complete suspension of the abortion pill's FDA approval.

However, the judges agreed that the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine could challenge the FDA's 2016 regulatory changes. The Appeals Court suspended the FDA regulations that allow abortion pills to be prescribed through telemedicine, meaning that Mifepristone can now only be dispensed in person by a doctor.

The Appeals Court panel also reversed the FDA's previous decision to authorize the abortion pill up to the 10<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy and returned to the 7-week standard.

This was just a temporary ruling. The 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals will still hear the case on its merits and could end up reinstating Judge Kacsmaryk's decision. The Biden administration will appeal the case to the Supreme Court in an attempt to get all of the FDA's regulations abortion pill policies and regulations restored.

This case will likely take months, if not years, to go through the entire federal court system. However, it represents a significant victory in the fight to rid the country of the scourge of chemical abortions.

## What Comes Next?

In the short term, these court cases will not affect our work here at EMC Frontline Pregnancy Centers. We are quite literally on the frontline in this fight, in the Abortion Capitol of the World (New York City). What we don't know is how these court cases will change the plans made by major pharmacies like CVS, Walgreens, and Rite Aid to begin administering the abortion pill. While the 5th Circuit ruling undoes the FDA's plan to further deregulate the abortion pill, these pharmacies may be able to comply with the old regulations and become an authorized distributor of Mifepristone...

New York is scrambling to stockpile as many abortion pills as possible in case the 5th Circuit ultimately upholds Judge Kacsmaryk's decision.<sup>ix</sup> Their goal is to stockpile at least five years worth of abortion pills, which they expect to be around 150,000 doses. How

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evil must a government be to create a five-year plan to kill 150,000 children? Apparently, New York plans (in this scenario) to distribute unapproved medications. This plan is shameful, considering that one of the main reasons that Judge Kacsmaryk ruled against the FDA is because of how dangerous the abortion pill is. If any other state conspired to distribute unapproved medications in defiance of a court order, they would be held in contempt. But in the case of New York, the media cheers their lawless defiance.

The City of New York also plans to give away as many as 10,000 abortion pills to city residents for free every single year.<sup>x</sup> They plan to flood our communities with abortion pills so that women don't even need to go to abortionists. Given the 5th Circuit's order rolling back the FDA's abortion pill deregulation plans, it is unclear whether the NYC "sexual health clinics" will be able to legally dispense Mifepristone. What is clear, however, is that New York City doesn't seem to care and plans to do it anyway. Again, if EMC Frontline Pregnancy Services acted this way and defied a court order and continued dispensing a dangerous drug in a dangerous manner, we would be shut down and arrested.

The City and State of New York are also trying to force us to keep pro-abortion employees if they reveal their true opinions and beliefs to us. Basically, if one of our employees decides they are no longer pro-life, the Hochul administration wants to force us to keep them on the payroll. This would devastate our ability to provide life-affirming care to the women in our communities who need it the most. The good news is we just won a major court victory against the State of New York (*Slattery v. Hochul*). A judge agreed that forcing us to hire pro-abortion employees would violate our right to Expressive Association under the First Amendment and ordered our lawsuit challenging this unconstitutional law to continue.<sup>xi</sup>

***"A counselor who espouses pro-life values, but did not regret having had an abortion or would opt to have an abortion in the future would undercut [EMC Frontline's] message. [EMC's] constitutional right to expressive association allows it to determine that its pro-life views can be conveyed only by those who completely support and affirm the organization's mission, in both word and deed." – Thomas More Society Special Counsel Timothy Belz***

We are also facing tremendous challenges online. Anti-life tech companies like Google have deliberately censored our messages and advertising. Today, if a woman in the Bronx, Brooklyn, or Queens is researching abortion, Google will deliberately block her from finding our locations. If she is looking at Google Maps for a nearby abortionist, she will be able to see every other business on the map EXCEPT for us. We are working with pro-life digital marketers to bypass this censorship and directly reach the women in our communities who are considering and planning abortions, and we are seeing tremendous success. Another way that we plan to bypass this censorship is by opening up a brand-new mobile pregnancy clinic. We will be retrofitting an RV to create a state-of-the-art mobile pregnancy clinic that can reach women directly in their communities.

The anti-life forces that stand against us continue to try to shut us down. Every time they do, we fight back harder than before and find a way to persevere.

But all of this takes money, and the strategies that we need to bypass this anti-life censorship and fight these unconstitutional laws in court are significant.

That is why we are asking all of our supporters and pro-life people everywhere to financially support our critically important pro-life ministry.

We are fighting back against the abortion movement in the abortion capital of the world, but we are in

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desperate need of your financial support to continue waging this war on behalf of the unborn!

Your gift of \$75 will cover one life-saving ultrasound, \$250 will cover half a day of ads to reach pregnant women planning abortions, and \$1,000 will cover the rent for a week at our South Bronx clinic (which is right across the street from Planned Parenthood).

Every dollar counts and your contribution today is VITAL to our continued success and our ability to

save unborn lives in New York City, the Abortion Capital of the World.

Please visit [www.emcfrontline.org](http://www.emcfrontline.org) and donate today to help us continue our mission to save unborn lives!

<sup>i</sup> <https://casetext.com/case/pike-v-freeman>

<sup>ii</sup> [courts.delaware.gov/Opinions/Download.aspx?id=342370](https://courts.delaware.gov/Opinions/Download.aspx?id=342370)

<sup>iii</sup> “Rural Hospital Developers Pay \$1.1 Million To Settle Allegations of Improperly Obtaining FHA-insured Loan,” June 12, 2019, <https://getnicklaw.com/2019/06/rural-hospital-developers-pay-1-1-million-to-settle-allegations-of-improperly-obtaining-fha-insured-loan/>

<sup>iv</sup> Fred R. Bleakley, “Investment Banker for Unions,” NY Times, Aug. 12, 1985, <https://www.nytimes.com/1985/08/12/business/investment-banker-for-unions.html>

<sup>v</sup> Clearstone Venture Partners, <https://www.crunchbase.com/organization/clearstone-venture-partners>

<sup>vi</sup> Meghan Morris, “Records tie Silicon Valley venture capitalist who backed PayPal to one of Jeffrey Epstein’s foundations,” Business Insider, Sep. 9, 2019, <https://web.archive.org/web/20230327165705/https://www.businessinsider.com/bill-elkus-listed-as-trustee-for-an-epstein-foundation-2019-8>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-2nd-circuit/1332541.html>

<sup>viii</sup> “Distinguished Alumni 2012 – Richard S. Cusac,” JournalStar, June 14, 2012, <https://www.pjstar.com/story/news/education/2012/06/14/distinguished-alumni-2012-richard-s/63672833007/>

<sup>ix</sup> Sarah McCammon, “With abortion pill access uncertain, states strike deals to stock up,” NPR, Apr. 11, 2023, <https://www.npr.org/2023/04/10/1162182382/california-strikes-deal-to-stock-up-on-abortion-pills>

<sup>x</sup> Sydney Kashiwagi, “New York City starts offering free abortion pills at sexual health clinics,” CNN, Jan. 18, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/18/politics/new-york-city-abortion-pills/index.html>

<sup>xi</sup> Mary Chastain, “Court Rules New York Labor Law Violates Pregnancy Center’s ‘Right to Expressive Association,’” Legallnsurrection, Mar. 3, 2023, <https://legalinsurrection.com/2023/03/court-rules-new-york-labor-law-violates-pregnancy-centers-right-to-expressive-association/>