

OAKLAND PRESS

LAW AND ORDER

September 19, 2016

Civil suit filed against convicted doctor who traded pills for sex



Verbovsky Courtesy of the Michigan Department of Corrections.

By **John Turk**, *The Oakland Press*

A Detroit-based law firm has filed a civil lawsuit against a Southfield doctor serving prison time for getting a Macomb County woman hooked on painkillers and making her trade sexual favors for a prescription.

Brian McKeen, managing partner of McKeen & Associates, filed the suit against former physician John Verbovsky and his clinics — Stout Family Medicine of Detroit, and Progressive Family Medicine of Sterling Heights — on behalf of one of Verbovsky’s victims.

The plaintiff in the case alleges that Verbovsky introduced her to painkillers, facilitated, encouraged and enabled an addiction to said drugs, as well as demanding sexual acts in exchange for drugs, McKeen said in an issued statement Monday.

“Verbovsky knowingly took advantage of a emotionally fragile patient,

prescribed highly addictive and inappropriate drugs, and once the patient was good and hooked, demanded sex in exchange for those drugs,” said McKeen.

“This doctor abused trust on so many levels. He not only allowed an addiction to continue, he was the one who expedited it in the first place and then exploited that addiction to satisfy his own sick vices.”

Verbovsky, 68, was originally charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, racketeering, conspiracy to deliver controlled substances less than 50 grams and nine counts of Medicare fraud.

The Southfield resident specialized in osteopathy at his clinics. Investigators said he prescribed drugs “based not upon medical need, but instead allegedly using his prescriptive authority as a physician to coerce sexual favors and money from patients,” according to a statement from Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette.

Verbovsky, who was sentenced in Ingham County Circuit Court last year, is serving at least five years — but up to 20 years — in prison after a plea deal for one count of running a criminal enterprise, two counts of medical fraud and two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. His medical license has been permanently revoked.