



City of Charleston v. The Joint Commission (S.D. W.Va.)

Topics Covered: Freedom of Speech

Issue

The issue in this case is whether The Joint Commission can be held legally liable to four West Virginia cities and municipalities because its hospital accreditation standards have supported – or at least failed to discourage – prescriptions for opioid medications.

AMA Interest

The AMA advocates that scientific knowledge, data, and research should be protected and freely disseminated in accordance with the First Amendment.

Case Summary

Four cities and towns in West Virginia sued The Joint Commission, claiming that the Joint Commission’s hospital accreditation standards supported – or at least failed to discourage – prescriptions for opioid medications. The Joint Commission moved to dismiss the complaint on a variety of grounds, principally under the assertion that The Joint Commission does not owe a duty to the plaintiffs in connection with its accreditation standards.

AMA Involvement

The AMA will ask the court for leave to file an *amicus* brief to support The Joint Commission motion to dismiss.