Praedicat expands litigation tracker, adding PFAS, toxic baby food and paraquat

29 June, Los Angeles, CA. Praedicat, the liability emerging risk analytics company, has announced an update to the litigation tracker in its software product CoMeta with the addition of three new mass litigations: PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), toxic baby food (heavy metals in baby food), and paraquat (an herbicide alleged to cause Parkinson's disease). The new mass litigations will be added to the tracker's ongoing coverage of COVID-19 personal injury litigation.

PFAS is the largest litigation of the four. "There are 5,153 complaints, filed in 40 courts, naming 193 companies, spanning 82 industries, over 22 years," according to David Loughran, Senior Vice President and Cofounder of Praedicat. The litigation tracker is designed to be a comprehensive inventory of the litigation and will be updated as new cases are added. "PFAS may become the largest and most complex mass litigation in a generation, and we intend to help our clients monitor and manage it."

The most famous PFAS chemicals are perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), which was used to create Scotchgard, and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), used to create Teflon. While these chemicals were phased out of production in recent years in the United States, scientists have been raising concerns that a set of replacement chemicals continue to have health and environmental impacts. PFOA, PFOS, and their replacement chemicals with similar structure constitute the PFAS chemicals. Their persistence in the environment has caused them to be dubbed "the forever chemicals." They have been used in a wide range of products including food packaging, firefighting foam, cosmetics, building products and more. "They are both forever and everywhere," says Loughran.

In addition to the PFAS chemicals, the litigation tracker has also added two more recent mass litigations: toxic baby food and paraquat. Toxic baby food litigation began in February after a Congressional report found elevated levels of heavy metals in baby food. The resulting litigation now includes more than 120 cases involving prominent baby food manufacturers along with supermarket chains. The Paraquat litigation, which primarily involves workers with Parkinson's disease exposed to the herbicide, began in 2017, but has recently grown to 116 cases after the first cases were allowed to proceed past initial hearings earlier this year.

Praedicat's emerging risk solution is intended to provide insight on emerging risks from early identification through litigation. The possibility of baby food and paraquat litigation was evident in Praedicat's early warning system years before these litigations emerged. In the case of PFAS, where the litigation began before Praedicat was launched in 2012, Praedicat's early warning system anticipated the significant increase in cases witnessed since. "The expansion of the litigation tracker represents our vision of an end-to-end solution to managing large-scale casualty risk for our clients," according to Julia Fuller, Praedicat's Senior Vice President for Account Management. "The social inflation environment in the United States today is leading to a growing number of new mass litigations. Our plan is to continue expanding our mass litigation court data over time, prioritizing the addition of newly launched or accelerating litigation events."

The litigation tracker was launched in 2020 with COVID-19 liability, which continues to grow and develop and today includes 650 cases against 530 defendants. The tracker monitors complaints filed in all U.S. state and federal courts. The case information is available at the company level, linked to Praedicat's science-based analytics, and is updated monthly as new cases are filed.

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Notes to Editor

About Praedicat

Praedicat is a liability emerging risk analytics company for casualty insurers and global industrial companies. Praedicat's emerging risk framework makes emerging risk actionable across its lifecycle, helping companies to better identify liabilities early, track the risks and take action as they mature, and defend claims if litigation emerges. Praedicat is creating the technology for a growing and sustainable casualty market.

Praedicat was established in 2012, is based in Los Angeles, California and has offices in New York and London. Praedicat successfully participated in Lloyd's Lab Cohort 3 and 5, partnered with SOMPO to win an SMA Underwriting Innovation award in 2019, and has made the InsurTech Impact 25 of 2020 list by Oxbow Partners as one of the top-25 most promising insurance technology solution providers. Praedicat's ultimate aim is to deliver the science around health and environmental risks to businesses, driving smarter decisions that make the world cleaner, safer and healthier.

To learn more, visit **www.praedicat.com**

Media Contact
Praedicat, Inc.
5760 West Jefferson Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016
Contact: Yvonne Torres Phone: 424-672-6336 Email: media@praedicat.com

This release is distributed by Rein4ce on behalf of Praedicat
Contact: Caitlin Jennings on +44 (0)7568 572367 or caitlin.jennings@rein4ce.co.uk