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### EXCLUSIVE: Sackler family company pays \$7 million for mansion near Boca Raton

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By [Alexandra Clough](#)

Posted at 1:07 PM

#### Sackler family companies have invested more than \$14 million in Palm Beach County properties since July.

Members of the Sackler family, owner of OxyContin-maker Purdue Pharma, are living near Boca Raton in a sprawling mansion bought for \$7.4 million.

The purchase is the second real estate investment by the Sacklers in Palm Beach County, a ground zero in the nationwide opioid crisis.

David Sackler, a third-generation family member, formerly [Purdue board member](#). He and his wife, Joss, live in the Boca Raton-area home.

Like the July purchase of a [home near Boca Raton](#), the Sacklers' home purchase took place shortly before Purdue Pharma filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in a bid to resolve [2,400 opioid-related lawsuits](#) against the company.

[WJZY: David Sackler's \\$7.4 million Boca Raton home](#)  
[Sackler family company pays \\$7 million for mansion near Boca Raton](#)

Three months ago, a separate company connected to the family paid \$6.8 million for the downtown West Palm Beach building, which houses the firm being used to manage the Sackler family's money. Combined, the two deals poured \$14.2 million of Sackler family money into Palm Beach County real estate.

David Sackler is chief executive of the family money management company, called Summer Road LLC.

The property purchases in Palm Beach County, the epicenter of the pill mill industry that helped spawn the national opioid crisis, [representing the dominant](#) who represents the county.

“Outrageous,” Hunter Shkolnik said of the Sackler family’s move to Palm Beach County.

[WJPL POST: Uswiaj Umfwoj k bmoj of kabi raj yj BUC as 'why as ymj hoois, qthdhw sllis](#)

The opioid crisis has resulted in thousands of deaths and torment for families across the country. In Palm Beach County alone, the death toll is estimated at 2,417 since 2012, according to the Palm Beach County medical examiner.

Like many other municipalities, Palm Beach County is suing Purdue Pharma and members of the Sackler family over the opioid epidemic, claiming the Sackler family played an aggressive role marketing the highly addictive painkiller OxyContin.

In addition, various Palm Beach County hospitals, including West Boca Raton Medical Center, have sued Purda Pharma, too.

A reporter visited the Sacklers’ suburban Boca Raton home on Wednesday to ask about the family’s decision to buy the house.

[ANUP: Tamm Hoois — Uswiaj Umfwoj's jowfhwinsfw sllisss swwd jwqjssj](#)

Joss Sackler later responded in an email.

“I heard word that you showed up announced at our residence today,” Joss Sackler wrote. “You asked why we chose to live in Boca instead of Palm Beach. Is this really why you decided to become a reporter? What’s next, an article about my favorite color?”

“Boca Raton is the birthplace of the National Enquirer,” Joss Sackler added. (Lantana, not Boca Raton, was the Enquirer’s headquarters.)

“I can see with these questions that tabloid journalism is alive and well in South Florida.”

“P.S.,” Joss Sackler added. “My favourite color is blue.”

*Investigative reporter's report on the...*

The property purchases were made at a time when several states and municipalities were seeking permission from a bankruptcy court to proceed with lawsuits filed against individual Sackler family members.

*...Tampa office: Karpoff said HAN, Bluhm is a Florida...*

The Florida Constitution provides for homestead protection for people who claim the property as their principal residence. The provision protects up to 160 acres of property outside of a municipality and up to half an acre within a municipality.

The office building was purchased on July 31 by a company managed by the Sacklers’ lawyers, county records show. The property formerly was the office of Glidden Spina + Architects.

In May, *with the firm's attorney* that David and Joss Sackler planned to flee the negative attention they have received while living in New York and seek haven in Palm Beach. The Sacklers own a \$6.5 million apartment on the Upper East Side, which the *the firm's attorney* last month is under contract to be sold.

*Viewing by West Coast 'asset' of 'asset' by asset, the...*

The decision to set up shop in Palm Beach County was blasted by attorney Shkolnik, who represents Palm Beach County in a lawsuit against Purdue Pharma and certain members of the Sackler family.

“It’s rubbing salt in the wounds. Thousands of people have been seriously injured or are dead by their products,” said Shkolnik.

Palm Beach and Broward counties were the epicenter of the nation’s prescription pill mill scourge, which funneled millions of doses of prescription opioids throughout the country.

OxyContin wasn’t the only drug peddled out of the clinics. But at the beginning of the opioid crisis in 2001, it was easily the most popular. And what the Drug Enforcement Agency would criticize as an unprecedented — and misleading — marketing campaign by Purdue led doctors and patients alike to believe OxyContin was less addictive and safer than other opioids.

It wasn’t.

OxyContin’s ingredient was oxycodone, a chemical cousin of heroin. And when the pill mills shut down, users and addicts in states on the receiving end of the Florida pill mill pipeline did what users and addicts in Florida did: They turned to heroin.

The heroin scourge coincided with a massive increase in local treatment centers and sober homes in Palm Beach County, long known as one of the drug treatment capitals of the country. Many of the newer ones, however, were unscrupulous, engaging in insurance fraud and patient brokering and leading to fatal overdoses, a series of high profile arrests and sharp criticism of what has become known as the “Florida Shuffle.”

Florida and Palm Beach County are among numerous states and municipalities nationwide suing Connecticut-based Purdue Pharma for its role in the opioid crisis.

*Stop Opioid Prescriptions*

[Shkolnik](#), Good Samaritan Medical Center, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and St. Mary's Medical Center joined a statewide lawsuit seeking to recover billions of dollars in uncompensated treatment related to the opioid epidemic.

West Boca Medical Center in suburban Boca Raton was among the first hospitals nationwide to argue in a lawsuit it should not have to "bear the costs" of the care they continue to provide as a result of the conduct of defendants such as Purdue Pharma.

Florida, in addition to being a former pill mill headquarters and a destination for the addiction recovery industry, also has a reputation for something else.

It is popular with people fleeing creditors because of the state's homestead exemption, attorney Shkolnik said.

With skilled financial planners and lawyers advising the Sackler family, "it's not surprising they would take steps to protect their money so that the people who have been hurt can't get to it," Shkolnik said. "It's nice to be able to sit in your Boca Raton mansion and know you're always protected."

[Shkolnik](#) said the family has had to endure "vitriolic hyperbole" and "endless castigation."

The Sackler family has said it is not to blame for the opioid crisis. In June, [Cathy Yankel](#) said that the family has had to endure "vitriolic hyperbole" and "endless castigation."

But the founder of the Inside Philanthropy website has called the family's charitable contributions "blood money."

Attorneys general across the country also have had harsh words for the family.

"I allege that these people are among the most responsible for the trail of death and destruction the opioid epidemic has left in its wake," North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein recently told the New York Times.

The Sackler family home and office purchases in Palm Beach County took place before the New York attorney general's office said it had tracked about \$1 billion in wire transfers by the Sackler family, including through Swiss bank accounts.

A \_\_\_\_\_ indicate the beleaguered family, worth an estimated \$13 billion by Forbes, may be trying to shield its wealth.

The Sacklers went to great lengths to shroud their Palm Beach County real estate purchases. The properties were bought by a web of companies linked to the family. The companies did not disclose the family's name or ownership.

It is not clear if Purdue Pharma's September bankruptcy filing will protect the Sacklers from litigation.

The settlement will provide more than \$10 billion to help reimburse state and local governments and clean up the damage done by prescription painkillers and illegal opioids. The Sackler family would give up ownership of Purdue and contribute at least \$3 billion toward the settlement.

Although 24 states, including Florida, have signed on to the bankruptcy to resolve claims, others have not.

Purdue Pharma's lawyers have asked a judge to issue an injunction to halt efforts by state attorneys general who won't sign on. The lawyers say they are seeking to shield the Sackler family from litigation.

But some states are fighting the effort to limit their ability to seek money from the family.

"The Sacklers want the bankruptcy court to stop our lawsuits so they can keep the billions of dollars they pocketed from OxyContin and walk away without ever being held accountable. That's unacceptable," Maura Healey, the Massachusetts attorney general, said in a statement earlier this month.

An attorney for several Palm Beach County hospitals was equally adamant.

"That bankruptcy is going to entail billions of dollars and we're making claims in bankruptcy, of course, and we're going to continue after the Sackler family," said Fort Lauderdale attorney Bill Scherer. "Whatever fair share that's available for the institutions that were harmed, that's our job here."

On October 11, a bankruptcy judge issued a temporary halt to the litigation until November 6, in a bid to encourage all parties to come up with a settlement.

William Tong, the attorney general of Connecticut, told the New York Times he planned to get access to the Sacklers' financial information and be ready "to make our case to hold Purdue and the Sacklers accountable."

*Sigmasjak az Baskiba Nibitij bar talagg wajafo Kijf Ddagunaj dit ufo ja uiji dfgasa. Kijfkk wjaifalawja Kijfawaj Kijf kagawagayji jt jama wjajawj.*

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