



## **Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Sees Trademark Protection as Responsible Stewardship of Donor Funds**

We hold in the highest regard the trust our donors place in Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. As such, we're working to ensure there is no confusion as to what our donors are supporting and how their generous dollars are spent. **Susan G. Komen for the Cure has never sued other charities or put another non-profit out of business, nor do we intend to.**

The media stories about this issue contain major errors. The first concerns the number of legal oppositions we've taken against other charities through the patent and trademark process. Media outlets have reported this number at more than 100. The actual number, since Komen's beginnings in 1982, is 16. Another 31 objections have been filed -- in 29 years -- against companies or for-profit groups.

The next clarification goes to the amount of money actually being spent on this. Media reports say it is more than \$1 million, which is incorrect. As a global non-profit, we're required to spend money on legal fees for things like state charitable registrations, international operations, regulatory filings and trademarks. Our total legal expense, from our most recently posted Form 990 financial statement (accessible at [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)), was \$515,405.

The funds we raise together in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, 3-Day for the Cure and other fund-raising programs allowed us to invest **\$283 million into research, screening and treatment programs, education and advocacy in our last fiscal year alone.** Our reputation for transparency, funding life-saving research and our total dedication to ending breast cancer is unquestioned.

We are disappointed that our supporters have been misled and have been distracted by this issue, especially when many Americans cannot afford the treatment they need, access to breast cancer care is at risk and so many people continue to lose loved ones. Our singular objective is and has always been to find and ensure access to the cures for breast cancer, and we are enormously grateful for those who stand with us in this mission.