

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE: XARELTO (RIVOROXABAN)  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

\* MDL 2592 "L"

\* April 1, 2015

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO  
ALL CASES

\* Judge Eldon E. Fallon

\* Mag. Judge Michael North

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**REPORTER'S OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE STATUS CONFERENCE  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ELDON E. FALLON,  
UNITED STATES JUDGE.**

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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Call to order of the court.)

3 THE COURT: Be seated, please.

4 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

19:05:01 5

Let's call the case, please.

6 THE CASE MANAGER: MDL No. 2592, *In Re: Xarelto*7 *Products Liability Litigation.*8 THE COURT: Counsel, make your appearances for the  
9 record.

19:05:10 10

11 MR. MEUNIER: Gerry Meunier, co-liaison for  
12 plaintiffs.

13 MR. IRWIN: Jim Irwin, defense liaison.

14 THE COURT: Okay. We're here today for our monthly  
15 meeting. I met with lead liaison a moment ago to discuss it  
16 with them.

19:05:21

17 The main things on the agenda today are what I call  
18 infrastructure. I think a big difference in a case of this  
19 type and the one-on-one case is that it's very helpful if you  
20 establish some infrastructure in the very beginning.

19:05:42 21

22 I met with the CPA that I've assigned and appointed  
23 to this case. He's worked out some methods for recording time  
24 and expenses. As I mentioned before, I meet with him once a  
25 month to go over that so that I keep in touch with what's  
happening in the litigation.

19:06:01

In addition to that type of thing, we need issues

1 solved like file and serve, we need protective orders, we need  
2 privileged drafts, we need a deposition protocol. All of  
3 these things, if we get them laid out before the case ramps up  
4 with discovery, it's very helpful. It's like building a  
5 subdivision. It's best if you do some infrastructure before  
6 you build the houses.

7 And that's what we're doing, and hopefully we'll be  
8 through with that.

9 I've worked with counsel on a CMO. I met with them  
10 yesterday to make some final decisions on it. They're going  
11 to give me a rough draft of what I mentioned to them and we'll  
12 go from there.

13 Once we get the CMO, that's our map for the case.  
14 And we'll be able to follow that, hopefully, and make it more  
15 efficient.

16 In addition to the discovery, I try to give the  
17 parties an opportunity to see what juries have done with their  
18 cases so we'll set a number of bellwether cases. And at that  
19 point I will have done what I try to do, give counsel an  
20 opportunity to look at the case, get a feel for what juries  
21 can do or will do, and then they can decide whether or not  
22 to proceed with the next step.

23 Let me hear from the parties.

24 The first item on the agenda is pretrial order.

25 MR. MEUNIER: Thank you, Judge. Gerry Meunier,

1 co-liaison for plaintiffs.

2 By agreement with my co-liaison, Lenny Davis, I'll  
3 be proceeding with the joint report for this morning's  
4 conference.

19:07:59

5 In pretrial orders, Judge, we would simply note on  
6 that list in Item 1 of the joint report that two orders have  
7 been entered since the last status conference.

19:08:16

8 That is Pretrial Order No. 9, which is Record  
9 Document 356, providing for the direct filing of complaints in  
10 the MDL; and Pretrial Order No. 10, Record Document 357, which  
11 provides for the streamline service on certain Bayer  
12 defendants.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

19:08:31

14 MR. MEUNIER: Nothing further on the Item No. 2,  
15 Judge, which is counsel contact information form, except to  
16 re-emphasize to those plaintiff counsel who may be listening  
17 how important it is to keep liaison counsel current with  
18 accurate information on the form that's been approved by the  
19 Court in PTO-4A.

19:08:46

20 THE COURT: Yes. I reinforce that, because I want  
21 everybody to know what's happening in the case.

19:09:05

22 I've also established a website in this case. I  
23 have the website up and running. I'll put on the website a  
24 calendar of events. I'll put on the website all of the forms  
25 which have been utilized or can be utilized; all of my

1 pretrial orders.

2 I also make a transcript of these meetings, and put  
3 it on the website for those of you who are not able to meet --  
4 to either be present or present on the phone.

09:09:23

5 By the way, on the phone -- I appreciate people  
6 calling in. We have about 250 today so that's a good sign of  
7 interest in the case.

8 MR. MEUNIER: Item No. 3, Judge, Plaintiffs'  
9 Steering Committee.

09:09:38

10 Your committee has met repeatedly. We have  
11 organized into subcommittees for the common benefit work to be  
12 done by plaintiffs. We're very proud of the hard work that's  
13 been done to date by the members of the PSC who are a weighted  
14 jury in the box. I might say the best-looking jury that I've  
15 seen in this court in a long time.

09:09:54

16 THE COURT: They look fair to you, I suppose.

17 MR. MEUNIER: Fair and balanced. Fair and balanced.

18 Judge, on Item 4, File & Serve Express, we list  
19 three options in the joint report for the service of filed  
20 matters, and the plaintiffs have narrowed it down to the use  
21 of either File & Serve or the BrownGreer MDL Centrality  
22 software.

09:10:09

23 We've received competing cost estimates, and we are  
24 very close to making an election and will do so in the very  
25 near future.

09:10:27

1 My understanding is that, from the defendants'  
2 standpoint, they'll opt, for Item 2 on this list in this part  
3 of the report, to simply use the ECF notice process of the  
4 court.

09:10:41 5 THE COURT: Okay. Yes, it's doable from the  
6 standpoint of the defendants. It's not doable from the  
7 standpoint of the plaintiffs because of so many individuals.

8 In some cases it's even not doable from the  
9 defendants' standpoint. In *Chinese Drywall* I have 1,000  
10 defendants so that's a problem in those types of cases.

11 This time we don't have more than two defendants so  
12 they can keep in touch with each other and keep everybody  
13 advised.

14 From the plaintiffs' standpoint it's a challenge.  
09:11:12 15 And so rather than have just liaison counsel endeavor to  
16 notify everybody about everything, it's easier to get some  
17 service, an outside service, to be able to do that so that  
18 people get the information that they need and act on it  
19 accordingly and timely.

09:11:30 20 MR. MEUNIER: The next item on the agenda, Judge,  
21 deals with the use of MDL Centrality for fact sheets, and we  
22 are very excited that this MDL might be the first to utilize  
23 that particular software program.

24 The parties have had extensive discussions and  
09:11:48 25 in-person meetings with Orran Brown with BrownGreer to fully

1 understand the program. He made a presentation in this court  
2 at a previous status conference.

3 And the good news is that we are now in agreement,  
4 both sides, to the use of MDL Centrality for fact sheets.  
5 There is a written agreement, which is in the process of being  
6 finalized by both sides, and we expect it to be executed  
7 shortly. It will include the needed cost-sharing  
8 arrangements. And we do expect to submit to the Court in the  
9 near future an order for the use of MDL Centrality for the  
10 execution of fact sheets.

11 THE COURT: I think that will be very helpful. I  
12 met a number of times with Orran Brown in the drafting of the  
13 software, and it makes sense to me that -- one problem we've  
14 had in the past with cases of this sort is that oftentimes the  
15 clerk's office is overwhelmed by it. We don't know which  
16 cases are still active, which cases are not still active. It  
17 becomes a real chore, particularly at the end of the case, to  
18 close it out. Because there are so many names and numbers, it  
19 gets to be problematic.

20 Also in a case of this sort, it's helpful, at least  
21 from my standpoint, to be able to get my hands around the  
22 census of the litigation to find out whether or not it can be  
23 categorized in some fashion that makes sense to take  
24 bellwether cases from each of those sections, and that will  
25 help in this way.

1           So I'm really excited about the use of that type of  
2 software. Hopefully it will make it a lot easier in this case  
3 and in future cases that my colleagues will be handling.

4           MR. MEUNIER: The next item are the plaintiff and  
5 defendant fact sheets.

6           Your Honor, there have been, as you know, extended  
7 negotiations between plaintiffs' and defendants' counsel on  
8 the form and content of those fact sheets. And as was  
9 reported to you just this morning, the differences have now  
10 been narrowed down to a few very discrete issues that you,  
11 Your Honor, were good enough to help us with this morning.

12           So I think we're very close to having agreed upon  
13 fact sheets to submit to the Court for approval.

14           THE COURT: Okay. I appreciate the negotiators and  
15 the work of the negotiators on those fact sheets. During the  
16 interim, both have done great work in trying to resolve their  
17 differences, and for the most part they have. I put my thumb  
18 on the scale just a moment or two ago to resolve the other  
19 issues, and hopefully that will give us fact sheets for both  
20 sides.

21           MR. MEUNIER: Item 7 deals with master discovery.

22           For some time now the defendants have had a draft  
23 master request for production that was submitted to them  
24 simply to provoke some discussions, meet-and-confer  
25 discussions, about that discovery request. And it will be

1 addressed, Judge, in the case management order, which, as  
2 you've indicated, the parties will now have a draft of in the  
3 near future.

4 And in that we will provide for a date to propound,  
5 a date by which to make objections, and then on some  
6 prioritized and rolling basis the furnishing of documents that  
7 are not objected to in that request.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. MEUNIER: Preservation order is one of those  
10 infrastructure orders, Judge, which we've been working hard on  
11 with the defendants. And since the entry of PT0-1, which in  
12 Paragraph 13 does provide for preservation, we've been aware  
13 that there is a need for a more case-specific preservation  
14 order and we have negotiated at length with the defendants.

15 I believe now we're at a point where the differences  
16 have been narrowed to just a few discreet matters which will  
17 require the Court's attention. And this morning we discussed  
18 that it may be appropriate for us to submit to the Court  
19 competing versions of a preservation order next Tuesday, and  
20 at that time advise the Court of what we believe is needed in  
21 the way of a record and/or in the way of our position  
22 statements or briefing on the differences.

23 THE COURT: Okay.

24 MR. MEUNIER: Item No. 9 on the report, another  
25 infrastructure order.

1           The document production protocol is one in which a  
2 lot of progress has been made after extended negotiations.  
3 Nonetheless, there are a few differences remaining, and that,  
4 too, will be a matter which we think is best now addressed by  
5 having competing versions of a protocol submitted to the Court  
6 next Tuesday, again with advice to the Court on what kind of  
7 followup is needed to resolve those differences.

8           THE COURT: Okay. Yes, I'll resolve all those  
9 matters so that by next time we'll have the infrastructure all  
10 in place.

11           Privilege log.

12           MR. MEUNIER: No. 10, privilege log, that's now  
13 something that's been completed. The format and protocol for  
14 the privilege log have been agreed upon, and all what remains  
15 is an order to be submitted to the Court for approval. And  
16 that will be done very shortly, I understand.

17           Item No. 11, the protective order, is likewise an  
18 infrastructure order that we have worked hard on to reach  
19 agreement. There's been significant progress. There still do  
20 remain a few issues, and again we submit that the way to bring  
21 closure will be to submit competing versions of that to the  
22 Court next Tuesday with some schedule, then, for briefing  
23 and/or the needed record to resolve those differences.

24           THE COURT: Okay.

25           MR. MEUNIER: Item No. 12, the case management

1 order.

2 The Court had previously directed the parties to  
3 submit Case Management Order No. 1 by March 26th. We were  
4 unable to reach an agreed-upon version of the CMO, and so  
5 competing versions were submitted to the Court by that  
6 deadline date of March 26th. And then we met with Your Honor  
7 this week, March 31st, to discuss the differences in the two  
8 competing versions of Case Management Order No. 1.

9 We now believe it's appropriate, with the Court  
10 having given feedback on those issues where we differ, to  
11 submit to you a draft of a CMO which incorporates what the  
12 Court has given us as feedback to resolve those differences,  
13 and we believe we will be able to do that in short order.

14 That will then put this on track for a final entry  
15 certainly before the next status conference.

16 THE COURT: One thing we talked about is bundling in  
17 that.

18 MR. MEUNIER: I wanted to mention, just for  
19 plaintiffs' counsel who might be monitoring and interested,  
20 that in that case management order there will be a provision  
21 to allow for bundled complaints. This has been discussed with  
22 the clerk's office and with the Court, and it will allow  
23 plaintiffs to put any number of plaintiffs' names on a  
24 complaint and then allow for a single answer by the defendant.

25 MR. IRWIN: And we will be sharing in that

1 efficiency by working with plaintiffs' counsel to craft a  
2 master answer.

3 THE COURT: Yes, that would be helpful, because  
4 there's no sense, if we do bundling, to have the defendants  
5 answer the 15 or 20 or 30 or 50 cases in that bundle. They  
6 ought to just do it one time. So we'll deal with that.

7 But I will allow bundling. I think it's helpful to  
8 the litigation. It makes it easier, less expensive, and also  
9 easier for the MDL to get the census of the cases that's  
10 necessary.

11 MR. IRWIN: We appreciate that, Judge.

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MR. MEUNIER: The next item on the report is science  
14 day.

15 We know that the Court has requested this, and we  
16 were, of course, interested in knowing how the Court saw the  
17 purpose of that day going forward so we would know how to  
18 shape it and the format, and Your Honor has helped us.

19 THE COURT: Yes, I talked to counsel about it. I  
20 need to understand the science that's involved in the  
21 litigation, that's involved in this process. I'd like to get  
22 a bibliography of some basic reading that I can do to get up  
23 to speed on it. Then at science day I'd like to have some  
24 experts.

25 I don't plan to have this recorded, because it's

1 informal and it's just for my use. I'll do it in court.  
2 Anybody can be present at it.

09:20:48

3 But they can educate me in the basics of the  
4 science, what's this drug designed to do, how it goes about  
5 doing it, and things of that nature, so that I understand  
6 what's involved so I can make some decisions on *Daubert* later  
7 on and other areas that might call for some scientific  
8 knowledge.

09:21:12

9 It also assists me -- if I see an area that's not  
10 clear to me, I can either ask about it, or, for that matter,  
11 decide whether or not I need to appoint some 706 professorial  
12 expert to be able to help me on it if necessary.

13 But I'll alert counsel before I do anything of that  
14 sort.

09:21:32

15 But the basics of the drug, the structure of the  
16 drug, what it's designed to do, how it goes about doing it,  
17 and even what areas are problematic so that I understand what  
18 the basics of the drug are.

09:21:58

19 MR. MEUNIER: Your Honor, we had talked about  
20 scheduling that in mid-June around the time of the status  
21 conference, but of course since the Court wants to hear from  
22 scientists and experts and not simply from lawyers, that  
23 scheduling is dependent on the availability of those  
24 individuals.

09:22:10

25 THE COURT: Right.

1 MR. MEUNIER: And there may be an issue with  
2 mid-June. We're going to work that out with opposing counsel.

3 THE COURT: Yes, if there's an issue with them, I  
4 understand that.

19:22:20

5 Also if it's convenient -- or if it's more  
6 convenient for them to hook up by television, I can set it up  
7 here and we can have closed-circuit television.

8 But I'll leave that to you all. If it's a problem  
9 timewise, I'll work with you on time.

19:22:40

10 I just would like to get up to speed as quickly as I  
11 can on the scientific aspects of this case.

12 MR. MEUNIER: Thank you, Judge.

13 The next item is state/federal coordination, and  
14 Ms. Barrios is here as the court-appointed liaison.

19:22:56

15 MS. BARRIOS: Thank you, Mr. Meunier.

16 Good morning, Your Honor. Dawn Barrios for the  
17 federal/state committee.

19:23:10

18 Before I begin my report, I would like to introduce  
19 the co-leads of the Philadelphia litigation. Both Mike  
20 Weinkowitz is here and Dan Gallucci.

21 And I believe Mr. Weinkowitz has some material that  
22 he'd like to make a presentation to the Court on.

23 THE COURT: All right. Come forward, please.

19:23:21

24 First I appreciate both of you all agreeing to  
25 serve. It's a very important committee. And I like to keep

1 in touch with my colleagues in state court, and so I would be  
2 obliged if you would participate as much as you possibly can  
3 in the litigation. Feel free to come to all of the meetings,  
4 and, if you have anything to add, please do so --

19:23:40

5 MR. WEINKOWITZ: Thank you.

6 MR. DAVIS: Your Honor --

7 THE COURT: -- if you have something.

8 MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, if I may, we also have  
9 Gibson Vance here who's another individual --

19:23:46

10 THE COURT: Gibson, good. Welcome to you the same  
11 way.

12 MR. WEINKOWITZ: Your Honor, first of all, it's a  
13 pleasure to appear in front of you.

14 I would like to give you the background of the  
15 complex litigation and how it's designed and how it works.

19:23:58

16 THE COURT: Yes.

17 MR. WEINKOWITZ: And a status of the Xarelto --

18 THE COURT: And that's in Philadelphia?

19 MR. WEINKOWITZ: That's in Philadelphia,  
20 Pennsylvania.

19:24:08

21 The petition was filed on June 2, 2014, and about  
22 30 days later the Court granted the consolidation into what we  
23 call a mass tort. That actually was right around the same  
24 time that the JPML consolidated and transferred it here.

19:24:30

25 Currently there are 168 cases filed in Philadelphia.

1 Officially, when the litigation came together, there were  
2 43 cases. We're getting about five or ten cases a week.

3 It's -- the coordinating judge is Judge Arnold New.  
4 Judge Arnold New is -- he handles all pretrial order matters,  
5 like Your Honor does, but he does not actually try cases.  
6 There are eight individual mass tort judges that he assigns  
7 the case out to.

8 We have not had a status conference yet. We have  
9 one coming up on April 16th, our first status conference.

10 We have two CMOs that are in place. Case Management  
11 Order No. 1 appointed liaison counsel and instructed us to  
12 meet and confer on various orders including the infrastructure  
13 orders that were being discussed here, plaintiff fact sheet,  
14 defense fact sheet, and those matters. Those matters are  
15 currently under discussion.

16 CMO 2 set up a schedule for master pleadings. We  
17 have a master complaint. Actually today the Court just  
18 approved a short form complaint for filing of cases.

19 We don't have bundling in our state.

20 We have actually spoken with and I have had a  
21 presentation from BrownGreer. I think it would be a very good  
22 idea to have fact sheets centralized through the BrownGreer  
23 system. I think it will help all parties, understanding the  
24 parameters of the litigation. So we're considering that and  
25 we're going to present that to Judge New at the first status

1 conference.

2 Just a little bit of background about the mass tort  
3 program in Philadelphia. There are 24 mass tort litigations.  
4 There are a total of 5,405 cases that Judge New manages.

09:26:11

5 Xarelto has, obviously, 168 cases. It presents  
6 currently 2.2 percent of his mass tort docket.

7 The other cases that he manages include Yaz Yasmin.  
8 There are 379 cases. It's one of the more active cases. It's  
9 going to trial. There's a trial starting June 22nd.

09:26:29

10 Judge New puts a lot of pressure on everybody. He  
11 will actually try cases -- once he starts, you get one trial a  
12 month. So he has a Yaz Yasmin case June, July, August,  
13 September, October, and then there will be a break. And  
14 that's how he tries a number of his cases.

09:26:44

15 The other active litigations, there's Risperdal.  
16 There's still Fen/Phen litigation. And Reglan.

17 The parties in our jurisdiction don't know who the  
18 judge is until the week before. All of the pretrial work is  
19 done before Judge New.

09:27:00

20 He appoints a discovery master, and he stays  
21 discovery, like Your Honor does, except for the exchange of  
22 fact sheets. And then he appoints pools -- he selects pools  
23 of cases to move through the process.

24 And that's generally it, Your Honor.

09:27:14

25 THE COURT: Okay. Well, thank you very much. And I

1 look forward to working with Judge New. I'll reach out to him  
2 in the immediate future and we are going to try to coordinate  
3 our respective cases so that we're not meeting on the same day  
4 and that we're taking advantage of each other's work product.

19:27:34 5 I certainly look forward to working with him and  
6 getting some guidance from him.

7 MR. WEINKOWITZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

9 MS. SHARKO: Judge, if I could just add, there are  
19:27:46 10 about half a dozen forum non motions pending before Judge New  
11 in Philadelphia. They have been pending for some months even  
12 before the coordination. Less than 10 percent of the  
13 Pennsylvania docket is actually from Pennsylvania.

14 THE COURT: I see.

19:28:01 15 MS. SHARKO: So we hope we'll get an argument date  
16 on those motions soon.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Fine. Thank you.

18 MS. SHARKO: Thank you.

19 MS. BARRIOS: Your Honor, from the information given  
19:28:10 20 to me by the defendants, there are 20 law firms, basically,  
21 that have all the Xarelto cases to date in the United States.  
22 The defendants have provided me with -- and I'll be happy to  
23 pass it to you through your law clerk if you don't have it --  
24 a list of law firms and the number of their cases.

19:28:33 25 May I?

1 THE COURT: Right. I think I have it, but why don't  
2 you give it to me and I'll check it against the ones that I  
3 have.

4 MS. BARRIOS: Okay, Your Honor.

09:28:41

5 THE COURT: I do have 20.

6 MS. BARRIOS: The first page is just a list of law  
7 firms and how many cases they have.

8 The next is just a list of cases, plaintiff's  
9 counsel, the firm name only, and the judge's name.

09:28:53

10 Since I was honored to be appointed federal/state  
11 liaison counsel, the first thing I did was approach the  
12 defendants to ask for copies of all the state court  
13 complaints. Despite several meet-and-confers with myself and  
14 I understand with liaison counsel, the defendants have been  
15 reluctant to provide us with copies of the complaints,  
16 et cetera.

09:29:12

17 And I have to say, in all the MDLs I've appeared in  
18 before you, this is the first time I've ever had to argue and  
19 ask for some relief.

09:29:25

20 The key to a federal/state coordination is  
21 communication. That is, advising the state court litigants of  
22 the status conferences, of the different deadlines; giving you  
23 the information about the judge, his or her e-mail address. I  
24 can't do that effectively and efficiently unless I have the  
25 actual complaint.

09:29:45

1           The information that I would like the defendants to  
2 provide is the original complaint, the amended complaint --

3           And the reason I ask for the amended complaint is  
4 because many times not only do allegations change, but counsel  
5 changes.

6           -- any CMOs that come out, hearings on major  
7 motions, trial dates, and dismissals.

8           I come to you and ask this with authority. I am  
9 privileged enough to be federal/state liaison counsel in both  
10 the GM litigation and in the Actos litigation.

11           Judge Furman in his Order No. 15 has required GM to  
12 provide me with this information on a weekly basis.

13           Judge Doherty in the Actos litigation has required  
14 the defendants to provide this to me on a monthly basis.

15           Toyota gives it to me voluntarily.

16           All that is involved, Your Honor, is a press of a  
17 button sending the electronic copy of the complaint, which I  
18 can only imagine defense counsel has, over to me, and any  
19 other major pleadings.

20           When I had a discussion with defense counsel, I was  
21 requested to see if I could get that information from  
22 Philadelphia. I had several conversations with Mr. Weinkowitz  
23 and Mr. Longer. They can't give me the information because  
24 each of those cases in Philadelphia has an individual docket  
25 number and you need a special pin to get in to that docket

1 number.

2 So what I'm asking you to do, Your Honor, is to  
3 order the defendants just to simply press a button.

09:31:23

4 The way that they have set it up here, the paralegal  
5 has to look at the complaint, take information off of it,  
6 provide it to me. I then have to give it to my paralegal, and  
7 I have to start looking up information.

09:31:39

8 And in the Toyota litigation, at the beginning there  
9 was a huge issue that arose because a paralegal forgot to add  
10 a case onto the state case list.

09:31:57

11 So, Your Honor, I'm asking it on behalf of the  
12 efficiency that an MDL is supposed to have, on behalf of the  
13 avoidance of duplicative work which an MDL is supposed to  
14 have, and ask that you order the defendants to provide us with  
15 the information that I've requested.

16 And I would be happy to provide a proposed order to  
17 that effect.

18 THE COURT: Let me hear from Jim or Susan on that.

19 MR. IRWIN: Thank you.

09:32:14

20 Your Honor, we -- the list that we have prepared,  
21 and we have promised to update every month five days before  
22 the status conference, contains the identity of the  
23 plaintiffs, the name of the court, the docket number, the home  
24 state, the plaintiff counsel, and the judge.

09:32:35

25 We have agreed, and will agree, to provide and

1 update that information every month for every state.

2 With respect to the mass tort proceedings in  
3 Philadelphia, we have agreed to provide the master complaint  
4 and we have agreed to provide every complaint for every  
5 so-called one-off case around the country.

6 Since -- as Mr. Weinkowitz said, since there is a  
7 master complaint procedure in the mass tort proceeding in  
8 Philadelphia, we believe that the provision of us providing  
9 the master complaint would satisfy the state liaison's  
10 responsibilities and requirements.

11 I am told it's not just as easy as pushing a button  
12 on each subcomplaint, on each short-form complaint.

13 In any event, we're here to cooperate in whichever  
14 way the Court believes and deems appropriate to advance the  
15 cause of state/federal coordination. We believe in that. We  
16 think that the information we're providing is satisfactory.  
17 Obviously we'll do whatever the Court says.

18 THE COURT: Okay. I do think that in the past what  
19 we've used with state coordination, I think -- I agree with  
20 counsel that communication is really important.

21 So get with the defense counsel, and if you can't  
22 agree on it, then give me an order. I do want you to have all  
23 of the information.

24 If there's some expense involved, I'll deal with  
25 that, but let's get to you the initial pleadings and

1 amendments so that you know who's filed them and who's the  
2 counsel.

3 MS. BARRIOS: Thank you, Your Honor. We'll do that.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 19:34:21 But meet and confer first, please.

6 MS. BARRIOS: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Okay. So next status conference.

8 MR. MEUNIER: Next status conference.

9 THE COURT: Okay. The next status conference is  
10 19:34:31 May 13, 2015.

11 Do we have a following one?

12 THE LAW CLERK: June 10th.

13 THE COURT: The one following is June 10th.

14 Anything else from the audience?

15 19:34:52 (No response.)

16 THE COURT: All right, folks. Thank you very much.

17 I appreciate it.

18 (Proceedings adjourned.)

19

20

\* \* \* \*

**CERTIFICATE**

21

22 I hereby certify this 2nd day of April, 2015, that the  
23 foregoing is, to the best of my ability and understanding, a  
true and correct transcript of the proceedings in the  
above-entitled matter.

24

*/s/ Mary V. Thompson*

25

\_\_\_\_\_  
Official Court Reporter