

**MINUTE ENTRY
FALLON, J.
MAY 21, 2013**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

IN RE: CHINESE-MANUFACTURED DRY WALL PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION : **MDL NO. 2047**
: **SECTION: L**
: **JUDGE FALLON**
: **MAG. WILKINSON**
..... :

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES

The monthly status conference was held on this date in the Courtroom of District Judge Eldon E. Fallon. Prior to the conference, the Court met with liaison counsel and the chairs of the steering committees. Liaison Counsel reported to the Court on the topics set out in Joint Report No. 44. (R. Doc. 16818). The conference was transcribed by Ms. Toni Tusa, Official Court Reporter. Counsel may contact Ms. Tusa (504) 589-7778 to request a copy of the transcript.

A summary of the monthly status conference follows.

I. PRE-TRIAL ORDERS

The Court has issued the following Pre-Trial Orders:

Pre-Trial Order No. 1 entered June 15, 2009 – Initial Case Management

Pre-Trial Order No. 1A entered August 28, 2009 – Counsel must Enter Appearances for Served Parties or risk Default Judgment

Pre-Trial Order No. 1B entered October 9, 2009 – Amending Pre-Trial Order No. 1 to clarify the preservation of physical evidence during home remediation.

Pre-Trial Order No. 1C entered November 24, 2009 – Lifting the stay on motion practice, but continuing all motions filed in the MDL without date. Pursuant to a November 25, 2009 Order, all motion practice in the *Gross* matter (09-6690) is stayed.

Pre-Trial Order No. 1D entered January 8, 2010 – Clarifies Pre-Trial Order 1C and lifts the stay with regard to responsive pleadings.

Pre-Trial Order No. 1E entered February 12, 2010 – Regarding stay of responsive pleadings in *Gross*.

Pre-Trial Order No. 1F entered March 9, 2010-Clarifying the deadline dates for responsive pleadings, notices of appearance, profile forms, and alleviating the need to file motions for extensions in all cases.

Pre-Trial Order No. 1G entered May 27, 2010-Further clarifying deadlines for notices of appearances, profile forms, and responsive pleadings in all cases.

Pre-Trial Order No. 1H entered October 22, 2010-Regarding the PSC's Notice of Completion to the Omni Complaints

Pre-Trial Order No. 1I entered January 24, 2012 – Preservation of Physical Evidence

Pre-Trial Order No. 2 entered June 16, 2009 – Notice to Transferor Court

Pre-Trial Order No. 2A entered September 18, 2009 – Means of Tracking Remands in MDL 2047

Pre-Trial Order No. 3 entered July 6, 2009 – Designation of Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel

Pre-Trial Order No. 4 entered July 6, 2009 – Designation of Defendants' Liaison Counsel

Pre-Trial Order No. 5 entered July 6, 2009 – Contact Information

Pre-Trial Order No. 5A entered July 9, 2009 – Counsel Contact Information Form

Pre-Trial Order No. 6 entered July 21, 2009 – Electronic Service (LexisNexis)

Pre-Trial Order No. 7 entered July 27, 2009 – Appointment Defendants' Steering Committee

Pre-Trial Order No. 7A entered August 4, 2009 – Amending PTO 7 re: Defendants'

Steering Committee

Pre-Trial Order No. 7B entered August 27, 2009 – Amending PTO 7 re: list containing Defendants’ Steering Committee and lists responsibilities for same

Pre-Trial Order No. 8 entered July 28, 2009 – Appointing Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee

Pre-Trial Order No. 8A entered January 11, 2011 – Appointing Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee for a one year term, beginning January 11, 2011.

Pre-Trial Order No. 8B entered March 19, 2012 – Appointing Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee for a one year term, beginning March 19, 2012.

Pre-Trial Order No. 8C entered March 12, 2013 – Appointing Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee for a one year term, beginning March 12, 2013.

Pre-Trial Order No. 9 entered July 28, 2009 – Time and Billing Guidelines/Submissions

Pre-Trial Order No. 9A entered March 16, 2012 – Reporting of Common Benefit Time by State Court Counsel.

Pre-Trial Order No. 10 entered August 21, 2009 – All parties to provide PLC or DLC with photographic catalog of markings, brands, endtapes and other identifying markers found in affected homes by August 26, 2009. PSC and DSC to collect and submit data to the Court and inspection company for TIP a joint catalog of data to assist in training of inspections no later than August 28, 2009.

Pre-Trial Order No. 11 entered August 17, 2009 - Profile forms to be distributed to appropriate parties and filed and returned on or before September 2, 2009

Pre-Trial Order No. 12 entered August 25, 2009 – Court will prepare final version of Distributor Profile Form.

Pre-Trial Order No. 12A entered August 25, 2009 – Court adopted Distributor Profile Form be distributed to appropriate parties and returned to DLC Kerry Miller on or before 9/8/09, either electronically or by hard copy

Pre-Trial Order No. 13 entered August 27, 2009 – Court institutes and will supervise Threshold Inspection Program (TIP). Court appoints Crawford & Company to carry out the inspections.

Pre-Trial Order No. 13(A) entered November 24, 2009 – Amending the Threshold

Inspection Program (TIP).

Pre-Trial Order No. 14 entered September 24, 2009 - Court approves Exporter, Importer or Broker Profile Form, and provides requirements for issuance and return of the form.

Pre-Trial Order No. 14(A) entered October 13, 2009 – Court approves a revised Exporter, Importer or Broker Defendant Profile Form.

Pre-Trial Order No. 15 entered September 25, 2009 – Counsel must provide privilege log for documents withheld in response to discovery requests. Also, the accidental production of privileged information does not constitute a waiver of the privilege.

Pre-Trial Order No. 16 entered September 25, 2009 – Pertains to the disclosure, use and protection of confidential information produced during the course of this MDL.

Pre-Trial Order No. 17 entered November 2, 2009 – Recognizing and Confirming KPT's Agreement to Accept Service of PSC's Omnibus Class Action Complaint.

Pre-Trial Order No. 18 entered November 5, 2009 – Appointing Phillip A. Wittmann to be the Homebuilders and Installers Liaison Counsel.

Pre-Trial Order No. 19 entered March 18, 2010—Appointing a State and Federal Coordination Committee.

Pre-Trial Order No. 20 entered April 6, 2010 – Appointment of Insurer Steering Committee.

Pre-Trial Order No. 21 entered April 6, 2010 – Retailer Profile Form.

Pre-Trial Order No. 22 entered April 27, 2010 – Privileged communications relating to PTO 20.

Pre-Trial Order No. 23 entered April 27, 2010 – Insurer Profile Form.

Pre-Trial Order No. 24 entered April 27, 2010 – Subpoenas/30(b)(6) depositions issued re insurance.

Pre-Trial Order No. 25 entered November 3, 2011 – Setting November 15, 2011 deadline for submission of profile forms.

Pre-Trial Order No. 26 entered March 29, 2012 – Appointing a self-remediated homes committee, creating a self-remediated homes pilot program, and setting April 28, 2012 deadline for submission of documentation for self-remediated homes.

II. STATE COURT TRIAL SETTINGS

Judge Victoria Sigler has the following cases set for trial:

1. *Robin v. Knauf Plasterboard (Tianjin) Co., Ltd., et al.*, case no. 10-59323 CA 42, set for the two week trial period beginning August 26, 2013.
2. *Echevarria v. Knauf Plasterboard (Tianjin) Co., Ltd., et al.*, case no. 10-64471 CA 42, set for the two week trial period beginning September 23, 2013.

Trials set in Tampa, Florida:

1. *Staggs v. Alvarez Homes, Inc., et al.*, case no. 09026416, Div. H, 13th Judicial District, set for the two week trial period beginning June 17, 2013.

Judge Hall has set the following trials in Virginia State Court:

1. *Gulledge v. Woodall, LLC*, Case No. CL09-5763, set for trial period beginning June 24, 2013, and will last 3 days.
2. *Thomas and Dawn Gale v. Manuel Development Corp.*, Case No. CL10-8198, set for trial period beginning July 15, 2013, and will last 3 days.
3. *Eugene and Genalin Caburian v. Deas Construction Company, Inc.*, Case No. CL12-0287, set for trial period beginning July 22, 2013, and will last 3 days.
4. *Patrick and Layne Brett v. DSG Construction, Inc.*, Case No. CL11-1517, set for trial period beginning August 20, 2013, and will last 4 days.
5. *Patrick and Jennifer Ryan v. East West Realty, LLC*, Case No. CL10-5100, set for trial period beginning September 16, 2013, and will last 2 days.
6. *Benjamin Walker v. Victor O. Moncada-Reyes*, Case No. CL09-6720, set for trial period beginning March 24, 2014, and will last 3 days.

The parties will be prepared to discuss the foregoing at the monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

III. HOME BUILDERS FEES AND COSTS

On March 9, 2011, the Court entered a Fee Order [Rec. Doc. 8006] requiring all home builders to share responsibility for the fees and expenses of their liaison counsel appointed pursuant to Pre-Trial Order 7B. This Order also applies to newly added home builders. The Court directed the parties to contact Dorothy Wimberly, dwimberly@stonepigman.com, with any questions about the Fee Order. Additionally, the Court clarified that these payments constituted costs of defense. [Rec. Doc. 8331, p. 31]. Thereafter, the Court further clarified the Fee Order to confirm that compliance by any builder does not constitute a waiver of any pending defenses and objections, including objections to the jurisdiction of the Court [Rec. Doc. 8401]. On August 22, 2011, the Court entered a Supplemental Fee Order [Rec. Doc. 10147] requiring all homebuilders who have not yet complied with the March 9 Fee Order to deposit their respective contributions to the fees and expenses of Homebuilders' Liaison Counsel on or before August 31, 2011. All homebuilders are reminded of the payments due pursuant to the Fee Order and the Supplemental Fee Order, which apply to all home builders in this MDL, including newly added builders, who should promptly comply. On May 17, 2012, the Court directed the Homebuilders' Steering Committee to submit a final, updated list of all non-compliant homebuilders. The Court advised that it will also issue appropriate contempt and/or sanctions orders against the non-compliant homebuilders, and it will bar the homebuilders from dismissal until they comply with their payment obligations to the HSC.

On March 15, 2013, the Court entered a Second Order Regarding Fees of Homebuilders' Liaison Counsel ("the Second Fee Order") [Rec. Doc. 16615]. The Second Fee Order requires a second deposit by all homebuilders. The deposits were due by March 31, 2013. A substantial majority of homebuilders have timely complied with the Second Fee Order. On May 9, 2013, the Court entered an Order requiring certain of the non-compliant homebuilders to appear in

open court following the monthly status conference to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court and sanctioned accordingly [Rec. Doc. 16804]. A second show cause Order will be entered requiring that any remaining non-compliant homebuilders appear in open court following the next monthly status conference on June 11, 2013, to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court and sanctioned accordingly. Any homebuilder who has yet to comply with the Second Fee Order or who has questions concerning the order is encouraged to contact Dorothy Wimberly, 504-593-0849, or dwimberly@stonepigman.com.

IV. STATE/FEDERAL COORDINATION

On March 18, 2010, the Court entered Pre-Trial Order No. 19 appointing State and Federal Coordination Committees. The parties will be prepared to discuss State/Federal coordination at the monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

V. OMNIBUS CLASS ACTION COMPLAINTS

The following is a list of filed Omni Complaints and Complaints in intervention:

Omni I: *Sean and Beth Payton, et al v. Knauf Gips KG, et al*, Case No. 2:09-cv-07628 (E.D.La.). Omni IA, IB and IC have been filed;

Omni II: *Kenneth and Barbara Wiltz, et al. v. Beijing New Building Materials Public Limited Co., et al.*, Civil Action No.10-361(E.D.La.). Omni IIA, IIB and IIC have been filed;

Omni III: *Gross, et al. v. Knauf Gips, K.G., et al.*, Case No. 09-6690 (E.D.La.), the PSC filed a Motion in Intervention (attaching a proposed Complaint in Intervention, *Mary Anne Benes, et al. v. Knauf Gips, K.G., et al.*, (E.D.La.) (Omni III). Omni IIIA has been filed;

Omni IV: *Joyce W. Rogers, et al. v. Knauf Gips, K.G., et al.*, Case No. 10-362 (E.D.La.) (Omni IV). Omni IVA, IVB and IVC have been filed;

Omni V: *Amato v. Liberty Mutual Ins. Co., et al.*, Case No. 10-932;

Omni VI: *Charlene and Tatum Hernandez v. AAA Insurance*, Case No. 10-3070.
This Omni VI Complaint has been dismissed;

Omni VII: *Kenneth Abel v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 11-080 ;

Omni VIII: *Daniel Abreu v. Gerbrueder Knauf, et al*, No. 11-252 ; and

Omni IX: *Laura Haya, et al, v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 11-107.

Omni X: *Block v. Gebrueder Knauf Verwaltungsgesellschaft KG, et al*, No. 11-1363.

Omni XI: *Benoit, et al v. Lafarge, S.A., et al*, No. 11-1893.

Omni XII: *Arndt, et al v. Gebrueder Knauf Verwaltungsgesellschaft, KG, et al*, No. 11-2349.

Omni XIII: *Richard and Constance Almeroth, et al, v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 12-0498.

Omni XIV: *Jessica Cassidy, et al v. Gebrueder Knauf Verwaltungsgesellschaft, KG, et al*, No. 11-3023.

Omni XV: *Eduardo and Carmen Amorin, et al v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd. f/k/a Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 11-1672.

Omni XVI: *Eduardo and Carmen Amorin, et al v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd. f/k/a Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 11-1395.

Omni XVII: *Eduardo and Carmen Amorin, et al v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd. f/k/a Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 11-1673.

Omni XVIII: *Paul Beane, et al v. Gebrueder Knauf Verwaltungsgesellschaft, KG, et al*, No. 13-609.

On April 5, 2013, the PSC filed a Rule 6(b) Motion for Extension of Time for Service of Process Under Rule 4(m) [Rec. Doc. 13567].

VI. PLAINTIFFS' MOTIONS TO ESTABLISH A PLAINTIFFS' LITIGATION FEE AND EXPENSE FUND

On March 22, 2011, the PSC filed a Motion to Establish a Court Supervised Account for Voluntary Deposit of Funds to Compensate and Reimburse Common Benefit Counsel [Rec. Doc. 8308]. The PSC filed the motion because many of the settling parties have approached the PSC about the prospect of setting aside a portion of the settlement proceeds to preserve a *res* to compensate and reimburse common benefit counsel. On April 13, 2011, the Court entered an Order directing that any party may voluntarily deposit seventeen percent (17%) of settlement proceeds for common benefit fees (12%) and costs (5%) into the registry of the Court [Rec. Doc. 8545.] A number of voluntary deposits have been made to the Clerk of Court pursuant to the motion.

VII. PILOT PROGRAM

On October 14, 2010, Knauf and the PSC announced the creation of a 300 home remediation pilot program. The Settlement Agreement for the pilot program can be found on the Court's website at www.laed.uscourts.gov. The agreed contractor, Moss & Associates, has begun estimating the cost of remediation for a number of homes, and continues to do so as Homeowner Affirmations are received from pilot program claimants. Remediation is complete on 1,403 homes, work has begun on 223 homes, and 46 more remediations are set to begin soon. Homeowners and/or counsel with questions about remediations are encouraged to call the helpline created by Moss & Associates at 1-888-91 MOSSUSA (1-888-916-6778).

To date, Moss has mailed out 2,335 Work Authorization packets to homeowners in the various states. Moss has received 2,074 executed Work Authorization packets, leaving 261 Work Authorization packets outstanding. Moss and the PSC have contacted certain lawyers regarding the status of the outstanding Work Authorization packets. All counsel are requested to return the outstanding Work Authorization packets to Moss as soon as possible, or to provide

reasons as to why the packets have not yet been returned to Moss, for example, (1) the home was foreclosed on by a lienholder, (2) the home was sold by the homeowner, (3) the homeowner has not yet chosen a settlement option, or (4) the homeowner doesn't wish to pursue relief under the settlement,

The parties will be prepared to discuss this further at the monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

VIII. KNAUF DEFENDANTS

On February 7, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment: (1) Certifying the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlement Classes, and (2) Granting Final Approval to the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16570]. On February 19, 2013, the Court issued an Order Correcting Clerical Error [Rec. Doc. 16580] in the February 7, 2013 Order [16570]. On March 27, 2013, the court entered an Order [Rec. Doc. 16642] outlining the registration process for the settlements. All persons or entities who intend to participate in the Knauf, Banner, INEX, Global and/or L&W Class Settlements must register with the Settlement Administrator, BrownGreer, by submitting the Registration Form attached as Exhibit "A" to the Order. Registration can be accomplished through the website located at <https://chinesedrywallclass.com> or through chinesedrywallregistration@browngreer.com.

On December 28, 2011, the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee filed a Motion to Establish a Shared Costs Fund [Rec. Doc. 12086] in compliance with the Knauf Settlement. On December 29, 2011, the Court entered an Order [Rec. Doc. 12102] authorizing Russ M. Herman, Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel, and Arnold Levin, Plaintiff's Lead Counsel, to establish a Shared Costs Fund with Esquire Bank. The Shared Costs Fund has been established. On July 3, 2012, the PSC filed a

Second Motion for Disbursement of Funds From the MDL 2047 PSC Shared Costs Fund (For Expenses) [Rec. Doc. 15209]. On July 9, 2012, the Court entered an Order granting the motion [Rec. Doc. 15231]. On November 9, 2012, the PSC filed a Third Motion for Disbursement of Funds From the MDL 2047 PSC Shared Costs Fund [Rec. Doc. 16145]. On November 29, 2012, the Court entered an Order granting the motion [Rec. Doc. 16329]. On January 16, 2013, the PSC filed a Fourth Motion for Disbursement of Funds From the MDL 2047 Costs Fund [Rec. Doc. 16506]. On February 4, 2013, the Court entered an Order granting the motion [Rec. Doc. 16555].

The parties will be prepared to discuss this further at the monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

IX. TAISHAN DEFENDANTS

On September 4, 2012, the Court issued an Order & Reasons [Rec. Doc. 15755] denying Defendant Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd.'s Renewed Motion to Vacate the Default Judgment and Dismiss the Complaint [Rec. Doc. 13490] relating to *Germano, et al vs. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd., et al* (EDLA No. 09-6687), Renewed Motion Pursuant to Rules 55(C) and 12(B)(2) to Vacate Entry of Default and Dismiss This Action [Rec. Doc. 13566] relating to *The Mitchell Co., Inc. vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al* (EDLA No. 09-4115), and Motion Pursuant to Rule 12(B)(2) to Dismiss the Complaint relating to *Gross vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al* (EDLA No. 09-6690) [Rec. Doc. 13590] and *Wiltz vs. Beijing New Building Materials Public, Ltd. Co., et al* (EDLA No. 10-361) [Rec. Doc. 13591]. In addition, Judge Farina issued an Order on August 31, 2012 denying Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd.'s Motion to Vacate the Entry of Default and to Dismiss the Complaint, in the matter of *Lennar Homes, LLC, et al vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al*, In the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, Chinese Drywall Division, Case No.: 09-07901 CA

42. On October 24, 2012, Taishan Gypsum Co. Ltd. and Tai'an Taishan Plasterboard Co., Ltd. filed a Petition for Permission to Appeal Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(B) with the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, in the *Gross vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al* matter. On October 25, 2012, Taishan Gypsum Co. Ltd. and Tai'an Taishan Plasterboard Co., Ltd. filed a Petition for Permission to Appeal Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(B) with the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, in the *Wiltz vs. Beijing New Building Materials Public, Ltd. Co., et al* matter. On October 26, 2012, Taishan Gypsum Co. Ltd. filed a Petition for Permission to Appeal Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(B) with the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, in *The Mitchell Co., Inc. vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al* matter.

On September 14, 2012, Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd. filed a Motion Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b) to Certify the Court's Order & Reasons for Interlocutory Appeal and Stay Further Proceedings Pending the Appeal in the *The Mitchell Co., Inc. vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al* (EDLA No. 09-4115) matter [Rec. Doc. 15812]. On September 14, 2012, Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd. and Tai'an Taishan Plasterboard Co., Ltd. filed a Motion Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b) to Certify the Court's Order & Reasons for Interlocutory Appeal and Stay Further Proceedings Pending the Appeal in the *Gross vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al* (EDLA No. 09-6690) and *Wiltz vs. Beijing New Building Materials Public, Ltd. Co., et al* (EDLA No. 10-361) matters [Rec. Doc. 15813]. On October 16, 2012, the Court issued an Order & Reasons granting these Motions [Rec. Doc. 15952].

On October 24, 2012, Taishan Gypsum Co. Ltd. and Tai'an Taishan Plasterboard Co., Ltd. filed a Petition for Permission to Appeal Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(B) with the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, in the *Gross vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al* matter. On October 25, 2012, Taishan Gypsum Co. Ltd. and Tai'an Taishan Plasterboard Co., Ltd. filed a Petition for Permission

to Appeal Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(B) with the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, in the *Wiltz vs. Beijing New Building Materials Public, Ltd. Co., et al* matter. On October 26, 2012, Taishan Gypsum Co. Ltd. filed a Petition for Permission to Appeal Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(B) with the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, in *The Mitchell Co., Inc. vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al* matter. On December 4, 2012, the Fifth Circuit granted Taishan's Motion for Leave to Appeal. The case number for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the *Gross, Mitchell* and *Wiltz* matters is No. 12-31213. On January 23, 2013, a Joint Designation of the Record was filed with the USDC [Rec. Doc. 16536]. On January 18, 2013, Taishan filed a Consent Motion for Leave to File Separate Briefs, for a Staggered Briefing Schedule, and for Separate Oral Argument for Each of the Three Appeals [Document: 00512118597] with the Fifth Circuit. On January 28, 2013, the Fifth Circuit entered an order granting Taishan's Motion to File Separate Briefs and for a Staggering Briefing Schedule [Document 00512126358]. On February 7, 2013, a briefing notice was issued by the Fifth Circuit in the *Gross vs. Knauf Gips KG, et al* matter. On February 14, 2013, a briefing notice was issued by the Fifth Circuit in the *The Mitchell Co., Inc. v. Knauf Gips KG, et al.* matter. On February 21, 2013, a briefing notice was issued by the Fifth Circuit in the *Wiltz vs. Beijing New Building Materials Public, Ltd. Co., et al* matter. On February 28, 2013, Taishan filed an Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time to File Appellant Brief in the *Gross, Mitchell* and *Wiltz* appeals [Document 00512159329]; and the Court granted the unopposed motion [Document: 00512159455]. On April 2, 2013, Taishan filed an Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time to File Appellant Briefs in the *Gross, Mitchell* and *Wiltz* appeals [Document: 00512194958] and the Court granted the motion [Document: 00512202224]. The appellant brief in *Gross* is now due by May 17,

2013, the appellant brief in *Mitchell* is due by May 30, 2013, and the appellant brief in *Wiltz* is due by June 13, 2013.

On October 2, 2012, Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd. f/k/a Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co., Ltd. filed a Notice of Appeal in the *Germano, et al vs. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd., et al* (EDLA No. 09-6687) [Rec. Doc. 15871]. On October 16, 2012, this appeal (5th Cir. Case No. 12-31017) was consolidated with the previous appeal in *Germano* (5th Cir. Case No. 10-30568). On December 4, 2012, a Joint Designation of the Record was filed [Rec. Doc. 16344]. On January 17, 2013, the Fifth Circuit issued a briefing schedule (Document: 00512116332). On February 19, 2013, Taishan filed an Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time to File Appellant Brief with the Fifth Circuit [Document 00512147374]. On February 20, 2013, the Fifth Circuit granted the Motion for Extension of Time to File Appellant Brief up to and including March 28, 2013 [Document 00512148217]. On February 20, 2013, Taishan filed an Unopposed Motion to Supplement Record on Appeal [Document 00512148533]. On February 21, 2013, the Fifth Circuit granted the Motion to Supplement Record [Document 00512150106].

On March 28, 2013, Taishan filed its Appellant Brief in *Germano* with the Fifth Circuit [Document 00512191168], and on April 30, 2013, the PSC filed their Appellee Brief [Document 00512224614]. On May 7, 2013 the United States Senators and Congressmen, as well as the National Association of Home Builders [Document 00512233922], filed Amicus Curiae Briefs. On May 14, 2013 the United States Senators and Congressmen filed a corrected Amicus Curiae brief [Document 00512240187] after receiving leave of court. Taishan's reply brief in *Germano* is due on May 31, 2013 [Document 00512241545].

The PSC has recently filed three complaints, (1) *Eduardo and Carmen Amarin, et al v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd., f/k/a Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 2:11-cv-377, United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia; (2) *Eduardo and Carmen Amarin, et al v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd., f/k/a Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 1:11-cv-22408-MGC, United States District Court, Southern District of Florida; and (3) *Eduardo and Carmen Amarin, et al v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd., f/k/a Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 2:11-cv-1395, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, against Taishan and allegedly related companies that the PSC claims reinforces the purposeful availment of these companies to federal jurisdiction by marketing their products to the United States. These cases will be served pursuant to the Hague Convention in due course. The *Amarin* complaints filed in Florida and Virginia were transferred to the MDL on July 19, 2011 and all three have been filed into the record as Omnibus Class Action Complaints in Intervention (see Section VI above).

On September 27, 2012, Plaintiffs filed a Motion for Preliminary Default Judgment against CNBM USA Corp. and BNBK of America, Inc. in the matter of *Eduardo and Carmen Amarin, et al v. Taishan Gypsum Co., Ltd., f/k/a Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co., Ltd., et al*, No. 2:11-cv-1395[Rec. Doc. 15847]. The matter is not yet set for hearing.

X. INTERIOR EXTERIOR DEFENDANT

On February 7, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment: (1) Certifying the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlement Classes, and (2) Granting Final Approval to the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16570]. On March 27, 2013, the court entered an Order [Rec. Doc. 16642] outlining the registration process for the settlements. All persons or entities who intend to participate in the Knauf, Banner, INEX, Global and/or L&W

Class Settlements must register with the Settlement Administrator, BrownGreer, by submitting the Registration Form attached as Exhibit “A” to the Order. Registration can be accomplished through the website located at <https://chinesedrywallclass.com> or through chinesedrywallregistration@browngreer.com.

On February 21, 2013, an Unopposed Motion was filed by Interior/Exterior Building Supplies, L.P., Arch Insurance Company, and Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company for Approval of Payment of Pending Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16581]. On March 12, 2013, an Order was entered granting the motion and approving payment [Rec. Doc. 16605].

On March 13, 2013, the PSC and Settlement Class Counsel filed a Motion for an Order: (1) Appointing Allocation Committees for the INEX and Global Settlements; and (2) Approving Allocation Plans for the INEX, Banner and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16609]. On March 15, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment: (1) Appointing Allocation Committees for the INEX and Global Settlements; and (2) Approving Allocation Plans for the INEX, Banner and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16616]. On April 24, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment (1) Appointing Allocation Committees for the INEX and Global Settlements; and (2) Approving Allocation Plans for the INEX, Banner and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16782].

On February 26, 2013, a Joint Unopposed Motion of the INEX Settlement Class, Interior/Exterior Building Supply Company, and The North River Insurance Company to Approve Settlement was filed with the Court [Rec. Doc. 16588]. On February 27, 2013, the Court signed an Order granting the Joint Motion [Rec. Doc. 16592].

The parties will be prepared to discuss this further at the monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

XI. BANNER DEFENDANTS

On February 7, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment: (1) Certifying the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlement Classes, and (2) Granting Final Approval to the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16570]. On January 22, 2013, the PSC filed a Notice of Filing of Second Amended Settlement Allocation Plan [Rec. Doc. 16527]. On March 27, 2013, the court entered an Order [Rec. Doc. 16642] outlining the registration process for the settlements. All persons or entities who intend to participate in the Knauf, Banner, INEX, Global and/or L&W Class Settlements must register with the Settlement Administrator, BrownGreer, by submitting the Registration Form attached as Exhibit "A" to the Order. Registration can be accomplished through the website located at <https://chinesedrywallclass.com> or through chinesedrywallregistration@browngreer.com.

On March 13, 2013, the PSC and Settlement Class Counsel filed a Motion for an Order: (1) Appointing Allocation Committees for the INEX and Global Settlements; and (2) Approving Allocation Plans for the INEX, Banner and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16609]. On March 15, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment: (1) Appointing Allocation Committees for the INEX and Global Settlements; and (2) Approving Allocation Plans for the INEX, Banner and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16616]. On April 24, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment (1) Appointing Allocation Committees for the INEX and Global Settlements; and (2) Approving Allocation Plans for the INEX, Banner and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16782].

XII. VENTURE SUPPLY & PORTER BLAINE DEFENDANTS

On January 15, 2013, the Court entered a Minute Entry [Rec. Doc. 16505] granting (1) Preliminarily Approving Each of Four Chinese Drywall Class Settlements (Nationwide Insureds

Settlement Agreement, Porter-Blaine/Venture Supply Settlement Agreement, Tobin Trading and Installers Settlement Agreement, and Builders Mutual Insureds Agreement) Relating to Virginia and Certain Other Remain Claims; Conditionally Certifying the Settlement Classes and Approving the Form Notice to Class Members.

On May 8, 2013, the Plaintiffs filed a Motion for an Order (1) Certifying Each of Four Chinese Drywall Class Settlements (Nationwide Insureds Settlement Agreement, Porter-Blaine/Venture Supply Settlement Agreement, Tobin Trading and Installers Settlement Agreement, and Builders Mutual Insureds Settlement Agreement) Relating to Virginia and Certain Other Remaining Claims; (2) Granting Final Approval to the Four Chinese Drywall Class Settlements; and (3) Approving an Allocation Plan for the Four Class Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16806].

XIII. L&W DEFENDANT

On February 7, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment: (1) Certifying the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlement Classes, and (2) Granting Final Approval to the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16570]. On March 27, 2013, the court entered an Order [Rec. Doc. 16642] outlining the registration process for the settlements. All persons or entities who intend to participate in the Knauf, Banner, INEX, Global and/or L&W Class Settlements must register with the Settlement Administrator, BrownGreer, by submitting the Registration Form attached as Exhibit "A" to the Order. Registration can be accomplished through the website located at <https://chinesedrywallclass.com> or through chinesedrywallregistration@browngreer.com.

XIV. PLAINTIFF AND DEFENDANT PROFILE FORMS

On November 3, 2011, the Court entered Pre-Trial Order No. 25 [Rec. Doc. 11151] setting a deadline of November 15, 2011 for the completion and submission of profile forms. On February 6, 2012, the PSC filed a Motion to Compel or Alternatively For Sanctions in Accordance With PreTrial Order No. 25 for Certain Defendants to Produce Completed Profile Forms [Rec. Doc. 12435]. On February 22, 2012, the PSC filed a First Notice of Errata to the Motion to Compel or Alternatively For Sanctions in Accordance with PreTrial Order No. 25 for Certain Defendants to Produce Completed Profile Forms [Rec. Doc. 12548].

XV. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The “MDL FAQs” may be found at www.laed.uscourts.gov/Drywall/FAQ.htm. Liaison counsel reminds the parties to review the FAQs before contacting Liaison Counsel. The parties will be prepared to discuss this issue at the monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

XVI. MATTERS SET FOR HEARING FOLLOWING THE CURRENT STATUS CONFERENCE

1. Order to Show Cause Why Non-Compliant Homebuilders Should Not Be Held in Contempt and Sanctioned [Rec. Doc. 16804]. This hearing proved unnecessary thanks to the compliance of the majority of the noticed homebuilders.
2. Motion for Reimbursement of Assessment Contributions [Rec. Doc. 16774].
3. Fairness Hearing regarding the Virginia Settlements.

XVII. PRO SE CLAIMANTS

On November 8, 2011, the Court issued an Order [Rec. Doc. 11327] appointing Robert M. Johnston of Johnston, Hoefler, Holwadel & Eldridge, 400 Poydras Street, Suite 2450, New

Orleans, Louisiana 70130, as a *pro se* curator to assist the growing number of *pro se* claimants in the MDL litigation who are seeking information and/or representation.

XVIII. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN MDL 2047 REGARDING CLAIMS INVOLVING BUILDERS, INSTALLERS, SUPPLIERS, AND PARTICIPATING INSURERS

On February 7, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment: (1) Certifying the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlement Classes, and (2) Granting Final Approval to the INEX, Banner, Knauf, L&W, and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16570]. On January 22, 2013, the PSC filed a Notice of Filing of Second Amended Settlement Allocation Plan [Rec. Doc. 16528]. On March 27, 2013, the court entered an Order [Rec. Doc. 16642] outlining the registration process for the settlements. All persons or entities who intend to participate in the Knauf, Banner, INEX, Global and/or L&W Class Settlements must register with the Settlement Administrator, BrownGreer, by submitting the Registration Form attached as Exhibit "A" to the Order. Registration can be accomplished through the website located at <https://chinesedrywallclass.com> or through chinesedrywallregistration@browngreer.com.

On March 13, 2013, the PSC and Settlement Class Counsel filed a Motion for an Order: (1) Appointing Allocation Committees for the INEX and Global Settlements; and (2) Approving Allocation Plans for the INEX, Banner and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16609]. On March 15, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment: (1) Appointing Allocation Committees for the INEX and Global Settlements; and (2) Approving Allocation Plans for the INEX, Banner and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16616]. On April 24, 2013, the Court entered an Order and Judgment (1) Appointing Allocation Committees for the INEX and Global Settlements; and (2) Approving Allocation Plans for the INEX, Banner and Global Settlements [Rec. Doc. 16782].

XIX. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE PRESERVATION ORDER

On October 9, 2009, the Court issued Pre-Trial Order 1(B) relating to the preservation of physical evidence from properties that may be repaired during the course of these MDL proceedings. The PSC, HSC and Knauf have agreed on a revised evidence preservation order, proposed Pre-Trial Order No. 1(I), that reduces the amount of physical evidence required to be preserved from a repaired home. The proposed order was submitted to the Court on January 24, 2012. Pre-Trial Order II was entered by the Court on January 24, 2012 [Rec. Doc. 12257]. The parties will be prepared to address this matter at the status conference on May 21, 2013.

XX. ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY DEFAULT

Pursuant to Minute Entry dated February 23, 2012 [Rec Doc. 12687], the Plaintiffs' Omnibus Motion for Preliminary Default Judgment [Rec. Doc. 11234] and errata thereto [Rec. Doc. 11773, 12265, 12551] was granted. On February 24, 2012, the Court signed an Entry of Preliminary Default [Rec. Doc. 12599] of defendants listed on Exhibit A attached to the Entry of Preliminary Default.

On July 18, 2012, Plaintiffs filed a Second Omnibus Motion for Preliminary Default Judgment [Rec. Doc. 15412]. An Errata to Plaintiffs' Second Omnibus Motion for Preliminary Default was filed on October 8, 2012 [Rec. Doc. 15898]. On October 10, 2012, the Court granted the motion, but excluded Cornerstone Construction and Distinctive Drywall. On October 19, 2012, Plaintiffs filed a Third Amended Errata to Plaintiffs' Second Omnibus Motion for Preliminary Default Judgment as to the Defaulting Defendants [Rec. 15972]. On October 26, 2012, the Court granted an Order clarifying which entities were in default [Rec. Doc. 16030]. Homebuilders' Liaison Counsel has received requests from several builders, asking that the Court address personal

jurisdiction over the entities identified in the motion for entry of preliminary default prior to the entry of any final default judgment. The parties will be prepared to discuss this further at the monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

XXI. ALREADY REMEDIATED HOMES

The Already Remediated Homes Committee has met on several occasions to review submissions posted by counsel and will be prepared to discuss this further at monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

XXII. PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE REGARDING THE LAFARGE ENTITIES

On February 7, 2013, the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee filed a Motion for a Pre-Trial Conference Regarding the Lafarge Entities [Rec. Doc. 16569]. On February 13, 2013, the Lafarge Entities filed a Response [Rec. Doc. 16575]. The parties have exchanged information and are continuing to discuss this matter and will report to the Court at the monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

XXIII. MOTION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ASSESSMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

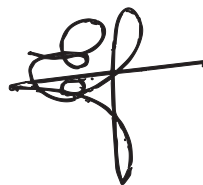
On April 22, 2013, the PSC filed a Motion for Reimbursement of Assessment Contributions [Rec. Doc. 16774] and on May 9, 2013 an Affidavit of Philip A. Garrett was filed in further support of the motion, after leave of court was granted [Rec. Doc. 16803]. The matter is set for hearing following the monthly status conference on May 21, 2013.

XXIV. NEXT STATUS CONFERENCE

The Court has scheduled the next monthly status conference on June 11, 2013 at 9:00 am CT.

The July conference will take place on July 17, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. central daylight time.

The conference call information for these conferences, as always, can be found on the Court's MDL website on the Calendar page:
<http://www.laed.uscourts.gov/Drywall/Calendar.htm>.

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