### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

MDL NO. 1355 IN RE: **PROPULSID** 

PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION:

**SECTION: L** 

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES JUDGE FALLON

MAG. WELLS ROBY

### **JOINT REPORT NO. 61 OF** PLAINTIFFS' AND DEFENDANTS' LIAISON COUNSEL

Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel (PLC) and Defendants' Liaison Counsel (DLC) jointly submit this Joint Report No. 61 in preparation of the January 10, 2008 Monthly Status Conference. To participate via telephone, dial-in information may be accessed on the Court's website at http://propulsid.laed.uscourts.gov/.

#### I. State Liaison Counsel/MDL Resolution Program II

The enrollment requirements have been met for the State Settlement Program (Propulsid II). Escrow Agreements have been executed and Defendants have funded the various funds. The parties have set the deadlines for submission of enrollment and claim forms and notices have been posted on the Court's website. The parties will be prepared to discuss this further at the January 10, 2008 Monthly Status Conference.

#### II. **Trust Account**

A deposit was made on December 28, 2007 into the Trust Account since the last Status Conference.

#### III. **MDL Mediation and Resolution Program**

The deadline for enrollment and the submission of Claim Forms for the First MDL Resolution Program has expired. The Special Master reports that there are over 15,000 claimants who enrolled, but did not submit claim forms. The DLC has advised that it will seek dismissal of claimants and is discussing this issue further with the PSC.

The Special Master's office continues to review Claims Forms to determine if the Forms meet the qualifying criteria for submission to the Medical Panel set forth in the Term Sheet. The Special Master's office advises that it will be submitting a Status Report to the Court in advance of the monthly status conference. The Special Master continues to notify the attorneys for the claimants that have deficiencies. Thus far, the Special Master has submitted 1,440 Tier I, II and III claims to the Medical Panel for review. Of the 1,440 claims the Defendants have treated 1.231 on an expedited basis. Nine (9) of the tiered claims submitted to the Panel have been found eligible by the Panel, and the Special Master has made those awards. Three Hundred Twelve (312) tiered claims are still in review by the Panel, 297 of which are considered expedited by the Defendants. The Special Master will report to the Court regarding the current status of claim administration.

Defendants continue to submit a list of plaintiffs/claimants whose records have already been obtained by defendants in whole or in part, so when necessary, the parties, the Special Master and the attorneys for these plaintiffs/claimants can expedite the submission and review of the Claim Forms for these individuals.

The weekly telephone conference with the Special Master, PLC, DLC and SLC continues to take place to discuss a number of administrative issues germane to the Resolution Program.

The parties will be prepared to discuss these issues further at the January 10, 2008 Monthly Status Conference.

#### **Emergency Motion for Distribution of Attorney's Fees** IV.

On November 23, 2005, the Court issued an Order and Reasons regarding the Emergency Motion for Distribution of Attorney's Fees with full reservation of rights to all attorneys who may claim any right to common fees and expense reimbursement. On December 5, 2005, Daniel E. Becnel filed a Motion to Reconsider the Motion. The matter has been reset for hearing on March 28, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

On March 2, 2006 Dumas & Associates Law Corporation filed a Motion for Common Benefit Fees and Expenses Reimbursements. On April 4, 2006, the PLC filed a response to the motion. The hearing date has not been set.

#### V. Supplemental Agreement re Propulsid I and II

The parties reached an agreement, which is set forth in a "Supplemental Agreement re Propulsid MDL 1 and 2" and August 30, 2007 Notice regarding the same, that has been posted on the Court's website. The parties will be prepared to discuss this at the January 10, 2008 monthly status conference.

Respectfully submitted,

#### /s/ Leonard A. Davis

RUSS M. HERMAN, T.A. (La. Bar #6819)

LEONARD A. DAVIS, #14190

JAMES C. KLICK, #7451

HERMAN, MATHIS, CASEY, KITCHENS & GEREL, LLP

820 O'Keefe Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Phone: (504) 581-4892; Fax: (504) 561-6024

### LIAISON COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

DANIEL BECNEL, JR. 106 W. Seventh Street Reserve, LA 70084-0508 Phone: (504) 536-1186 Fax: (504) 536-6445

JAMES DUGAN 650 Poydras Street **Suite 2150** New Orleans, LA 70130 Phone: (504) 648-0180 Fax: (504) 648-0181

ARNOLD LEVIN 510 Walnut Street, Suite 500 Philadelphia, PA 19106-3875 Phone: (215) 592-1500 Fax: (215) 592-4663

STEPHEN B. MURRAY 909 Poydras Street, Suite 2550 New Orleans, LA 70112 Phone: (504) 525-8100 Fax: (504) 584-5249

J. MICHAEL PAPANTONIO 316 S. Baylen Street, Suite 600 P.O. Box 12308 Pensacola, FL 32581 Phone: (850) 435-7000 Fax: (850) 435-7020

CHRISTOPHER A. SEEGER One William Street New York, NY 10004 Phone: (212) 584-0700 Fax: (212) 584-0799

BOB F. WRIGHT 556 Jefferson Street, Suite 500 Lafayette, LA 70502-3668 Phone: (337) 233-3033 Fax: (337) 232-8213

CHARLES S. ZIMMERMAN 651 Nicollet Mall Suite 501 Minneapolis, MN 55402 Phone: (612) 341-0400 Fax: (612) 341-0844 PLAINTIFFS' STEERING COMMITTEE

#### /s/ MONIQUE M. GARSAUD

JAMES B. IRWIN, T.A. (La. Bar No. 7172) QUENTIN F. URQUHART, JR. (La. Bar No. 14475) KIM E. MOORE (La. Bar No. 18653) MONIQUE M. GARSAUD (La. Bar. No. 25393) IRWIN FRITCHIE URQUHART & MOORE, LLC 400 Poydras Street, Suite 2700 New Orleans, Louisiana 70130 Phone: (504) 310-2100 Fax:(504) 310-2101 LIAISON COUNSEL FOR Defendants, JANSSEN, L.P. AND JOHNSON & JOHNSON

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP THOMAS F. CAMPION SUSAN M. SHARKO 500 Campus Drive Florham Park, NJ 07932-1047 Phone: (973) 549-7300 Fax: (973) 360-9831

#### -and-

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH, LLP **CHARLES F. PREUSS** DONALD F. ZIMMER, JR. 50 Fremont Street, 20th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105-2235 Phone: (415) 591-7500 Fax: (415) 591-7510 **CO-LEAD COUNSEL FOR Defendants,** JANSSEN, L.P. AND **JOHNSON & JOHNSON** 

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing Joint Report No. 61 of Plaintiffs' and Defendants' Liaison Counsel has been served upon all parties by electronically uploading the same to LexisNexis File & Serve, and that the foregoing was electronically filed with the Clerk of Court of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana by using the CM/ECF system which will send a Notice of Electronic Filing on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008.

/s/ Leonard A. Davis

Leonard A. Davis, Esq. (#14190) Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, LLP 820 O'Keefe Ave. New Orleans, LA 70113

PH: (504) 581-4892 FAX: (504) 561-6024 ldavis@hhkc.com

Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

**MDL NO. 1335** 

IN RE:PROPULSID

PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

**SECTION: L** 

**JUDGE FALLON** 

MAG. WELLS ROBY

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO

**ALL CASES** 

## **Monthly Status Conference** January 10, 2008-9:00 a.m.

### **AGENDA**

### **Current Matters:**

- State Liaison Counsel 1.
- 2. Trust Account
- MDL Mediation & Resolution Program 3.
- Emergency Motion for Distribution of Attorney's Fees 4.
- Supplemental Agreement re Propulsid I and II 5.