UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA



IN RE:

PROPULSID

MDL NO. 1355

PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION:

SECTION: L

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES:

JUDGE FALLON

MAG. WELLS ROBY

JOINT REPORT NO. 37 OF PLAINTIFFS' AND DEFENDANTS' LIAISON COUNSEL

Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel (PLC) and Defendants' Liaison Counsel (DLC) jointly submit this Report No. 37.

I. <u>Update of Rolling Document Production and Electronic Document Production</u>

DLC has advised that there is no further scheduled document production. PLC continues to discuss this with the Plaintiffs' Discovery Team and will be discussing this further with DLC.

The PLC and DLC continue communication regarding a proposed Motion and Order regarding the relief from electronic document preservation. The parties will be prepared to discuss this further at the January 14, 2005 Monthly Status Conference.

II. <u>State Liaison Counsel</u> (Minute Entry, November 16, 2000)

The State Liaison Committee will report to the Court regarding the efforts of the Committee at the January 14, 2005 Monthly Status Conference.

III. Patient Profile Form and Authorization

As of January 11, 2005, defendants have received 3,097 PPFs, 2,389 are overdue, and 0 will become due in thirty days.

DLC has agreed to PLC's request that motions to dismiss for failure to provide a PPF be halted during the period in which claimants may opt in to the MDL 1355 settlement.

IV. Service List of Attorneys

The parties will present the Court with the most current Master List of all Counsel, which will contain, where available, e-mail addresses.

V. <u>Motion on Class Certification.</u>

The PLC has not yet filed the revised Motion for Class Certification. The filing has been deferred.

VI. Trust Account

Since last month's Status Conference, on December 16, 2004 no additional deposits of settlement funds were made into the Court's Registry. PSC has filed a Motion, Under Seal, to withdraw certain sums from the deposit with the Court's Registry. The Motion is set for hearing on February 2, 2005 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

VII. Trial Schedule

The matter of *Halle Jackson v. Johnson & Johnson*, et al, docketed in the District Court of Clark County, NV, which was set for trial on February 14, 2005, has been dismissed on summary judgment. There have been no other changes to the trial schedule since last month's Status Conference. DLC will continue to update PLC if and when the schedule is revised.

VIII. Pharmacy Indemnity Agreements

There have been no pharmacy indemnity agreements executed by defendants since the last Status Conference. DLC will continue to furnish copies of all MDL pharmacy indemnity agreements if and when they are executed.

IX. MDL Mediation and Resolution Program

The enrollment process has proceeded since the last Monthly Status Conference. The enrollment date of October 29, 2004 was the deadline for plaintiffs and claimants to enroll. Approximately 25,000 plaintiffs and claimants served enrollment forms by this deadline. The defendants, the PLC and the Special Master are continuing the process of reviewing the enrollment forms to confirm eligibility, absence of duplicative enrollments and compliance with Term Sheet enrollment guidelines. The PLC and defendants are also continuing to discuss a number of issues that have arisen during the course of the enrollment process, such as pro se plaintiffs, plaintiffs/claimants whose location is now unknown and plaintiffs/claimants who desire to participate in the MDL Program but may not qualify under the Term Sheet. Further, PLC, defendants and the Special Master have been in communication with several plaintiffs counsel to assist and assure compliance with enrollment guidelines. The parties are targeting the resolution of these issues and completion of the enrollment eligibility and confirmation of the numbers of enrollees in the categories defined in the Term Sheet. Once this is completed, the claims process can begin.

Since the last status conference, the parties have had meetings and telephone conferences with the Special Master, Deutsche Bank and the Claims Disbursing Agent to further discuss the administration of the Resolution Program. Issues continue to be addressed on an ongoing basis. The Special Master's office is open, operational and in communication with claimants' counsel.

The parties have conferred and will be presenting a Motion and Order to the court so that the settlement funds in the Program will be administered as a Qualified Settlement Fund (OSF).

The parties will be prepared to discuss these issues further at the January 14, 2005 Monthly Status Conference.

X. Global Application of Daubert

The parties have had no further discussions regarding this matter and the matter is on hold pending the outcome of the MDL's Settlement Program.

XI. Motion for Summary Judgment

PLC has delayed the filing with the court of a Motion for Summary Judgment regarding Johnson & Johnson's liability. The parties will be prepared to discuss this further at the January 14, 2005 Monthly Status Conference.

XII. Pro se Plaintiffs

Defendants have updated their service list to reflect this change in representation. The parties will be prepared to discuss this issue further at the January 14, 2005 Status Conference.

NEW ITEMS

XIII. Plaintiff – Melissa Hawthorn

By Order dated January 7, 2005, the Court requested that this matter be addressed at the January 14, 2005 status conference. It appears from the service list that this claimant may be involved in Civil Docket Case No. 02-CV-3749 entitled "Butler, et al v. Janssen, et al" that was originally filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi (Hattiesburg), 02-594 PG (MDL No. 02-03749). PLC has advised the claimant and counsel that the matter will be addressed at the status conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dugan & Browne, PLC

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 Eax: (612) 341-0844

PLAINTIFFS' STEERING COMMITTEE

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

Thor

Phone: (504) 310-2100 Fax:(504) 310-2101

LIAISON COUNSEL FOR Defendants,

JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICA INC. 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 PHARMACEUTICA INC. AND JOHNSON & JOHNSON

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Joint Report No. 37 of Plaintiffs' and Defendants' Liaison Counsel was served on Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel by hand and e-mail and by e-service to all parties by uploading same to Verilaw, on this day of January, 2005.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

: MDL NO. 1335

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PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION : SECTION: L

SECTION. I

: JUDGE FALLON: MAG. WELLS ROBY

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ALL CASES

Monthly Status Conference January 14, 2005- 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Current Matters:

- 1. Update of Rolling Document Production and Electronic Document Production
- 2. State Liaison Counsel
- 3. Patient Profile Form and Authorization
- 4. Service List of Attorneys
- 5. Motion on Class Certification
- 6. Trust Account
- 7. Trial Schedule
- 8. Pharmacy Indemnity Agreements
- 9. MDL Mediation & Resolution Program

- 10. Global Application of Daubert
- 11. Motion For Summary Judgment
- 12. Pro Se Plaintiffs

New Items:

13. Plaintiff – Melissa Hawthorne