

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. 41 OF PLAINTIFFS' AND DEFENDANTS' LIAISON COUNSEL

Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel (PLC) and Defendants' Liaison Counsel (DLC) jointly submit this Joint Report No. 41.

I. State Liaison Counsel (Minute Entry, November 16, 2000)

The State Liaison Committee continues to communicate with the DLC and PLC regarding the status of the remaining state court cases. The Defendants have supplied the PSC and SLC with a list of potential plaintiffs and claimants who may qualify for a potential second settlement program. PLC, DLC and representatives of the State Liaison Committee have a conference call scheduled on June 27, 2005 to discuss the potential second settlement program. The parties will report to the Court regarding these efforts at the June 28, 2005 Monthly Status Conference.

II. Service List of Attorneys

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

III. Trust Account

Since the last status conference, there has been no activity with respect to the Trust Account.

IV. Trial Schedule

Defendants have provided PLC with an updated trial list. Counsel for the parties in the matter of *Marion T. Bucaria for the Estate of Thomas Bucaria v. Johnson & Johnson Co.*, et al, #04-1277, have agreed that the suit will be tried in this Court. The Court has scheduled the trial for February 6, 2006. On June 21, 2005, DLC submitted a proposed Case Management Order agreed upon by Defendants and Plaintiffs to the Court for its review.

V. <u>Pharmacy Indemnity Agreements</u>

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.

VI. MDL Mediation and Resolution Program

The enrollment process is nearing completion and claim forms are being submitted to the Special Master. All Escrow Agreements (Settlement Fund, Administrative Fund and Attorney's Fees Fund) are in place and have been funded.

On June 21, 2005, a Joint Motion for the Entry of an Order Approving the Parties Stipulation Respecting the MDL Resolution Program As to the Use of a Medical Records Reimbursement Form was filed with the Court. The parties await further action by the Court.

On June 23, 2005, DLC provided two additional Medical Panel designees and advised that one of the two previous designees that had been submitted as a Medical Panel Member has moved and would no longer be able to serve on the Medical Panel. PLC is reviewing the two new submissions and will be responding to Defendants. The Medical Panel designees provided by the PLC have been accepted by Defendants.

The PLC and defendants continue to discuss a number of administrative issues germane to the Resolution Program. The weekly telephone conference with the Special Master, PLC and DLC continues to take place. The parties have agreed upon the fee schedule for members of the Medical Panel, as well as a written protocol to be given to members of the Medical Panel to assist them in conducting their duties under the Term Sheet. The parties are discussing arrangements for a joint training program to be presented to the Medical Panel identified in Section 15(A) of the Term Sheet. The parties have agreed that the Special Master will notify them on a weekly basis with a listing of claimants whose claim forms are submitted. Sufficient information will be provided so that if a plaintiff or defendants have medical records for an enrolled claimant, such information will be submitted to the Special Master. As contemplated under the Term Sheet, the Special Master will be reviewing claim forms and medical records that are submitted to determine whether there are any deficiencies and will be advising claimants' attorneys of any such deficiencies and requesting that they be corrected. Once the Special Master's Office has determined that any deficiencies have been satisfactorily cured and that claim forms are ready for submission to the Medical Panel, notification will be provided to the parties that such claim forms are ready for submission to the Medical Panel. The notification to the parties will serve as commencement of the sixty (60) day period identified in Section 13(A) and (B) of the Term Sheet for submission of the memoranda or one (1) page summary identified therein. Should any party believe that a claim form is deficient, notification will be provided to the Special Master so that the Special Master can make a determination prior to submission of the claim to the Medical Panel. More than 1,000 claim forms have been received by the Special Master's Office to date and more are arriving daily. The Special Master is in the process of compiling a listing of those claim forms that are ready for submission to the Medical Panel so that notification can be provided to the parties. The parties continue to discuss issues as they arise to promote the prompt and efficient management of the Resolution Program.

The parties are endeavoring to have the first medical records reimbursement payments made during August. The parties will be prepared to discuss these issues further at the June 28, 2005 Monthly Status Conference.

VII. 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.

VIII. Pro se Plaintiffs

On June 14, 2005, Defendants provided a proposed Order setting forth procedures for notice to pro se plaintiffs and suggestions for how their cases should be managed from this point forward. The pleadings are being reviewed and PLC will be responding to DLC. The parties will be prepared to discuss this at the June 28, 2005 Monthly Status Conference.

IX. Verilaw/Lexis Propulsid Litigation Migration

Since the migration from Verilaw to LexisNexis in April, 2005, PLC and DLC have had numerous discussions with LexisNexis regarding the File & Serve Application. Representatives of LexisNexis File & Serve will be meeting with the Court on Wednesday, June 29, 2005. The parties will be prepared to discuss this at the June 28, 2005 Monthly Status Conference.

X. Status of Motions

The remand motions filed in the matters of Helena Masluk, #04-1278, Marion Bucaria for the Estate of Thomas Bucaria, #04-1277, and Judy Ridgway, for the Estate of Kenneth Ridgway, #04-1809 have been withdrawn by plaintiffs without prejudice. Likewise, the summary judgment motions filed by defendants in the matters of Allison Case on behalf of Evan Case, an Infant, #03-3025, Robert Day and Wanda Day, #03-3039, Manuel Fernandez, Individually and as Administratrix for the Estate of Catherine Fernandez, #04-1805 and Andrew Wiznia, Individually and as Executor of the Estate of Sidney Wiznia, #04-1280 have been withdrawn without prejudice.

XI. Proposed Remand Order

Defendants are finalizing the first draft of a proposed Master Remand Order and will endeavor to circulate it to the PSC before the June 28, 2005 conference or shortly after.

XII. Preservation of Electronic Data

On June 16, 2005, Defendants requested modifications to the preservation procedures that previously have been implemented by J&J. The request is being considered by Plaintiffs and PLC will be responding to the request. The parties will be prepared to discuss this at the June 28, 2005 Monthly Status Conference.

XIII. Motion to Amend June 28 Order Re: Special Master

PLC has filed with the Court a Motion to Amend June 28, 2004 Order Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53 Governing the Appointment of Special Master, Patrick Juneau. This motion was filed in connection with the Special Master's responsibilities under the Settlement Program and to expand his authority towards making a recommendation to the Court regarding the division of any attorney's fees and expenses.

XIV. The Lomax Cases

The Court requested that PLC investigate the Lomax, et al v. Janssen, et al, 2:04-CV-00137SRO case from the United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, and the Lomax, et al v. Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc., et al, 2:05-00084 case from the United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, both of which are in MDL 1355. Both matters identify plaintiff's counsel as Carroll H. Ingram. PLC contacted Mr. Ingram and has been advised that plaintiff's counsel desires for the two nearly identical cases to be consolidated. Mr. Ingram advises that the two cases are similar with the exception of 24 plaintiffs and one defendant, Merck-Medco, and that plaintiffs filed a Motion to Dismiss Merck-Medco and to consolidate the matters on June 23, 2005. PLC requested that Mr. Ingram provide further explanation to the Court and it is anticipated that Mr. Ingram will be at the Monthly Status Conference.

XV. Vernon L. Gray

Pursuant to the Order issued by the Court on May 10, 2005, PLC communicated with Mr.

Gray. PLC will be prepared to discuss this further with the Court at the June 28, 2005 Monthly

Status Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Joint Report No. 41of Plaintiffs' and Defendants' Liaison Counsel was served on Defendants' Liaison Counsel by hand and e-mail and by/e-service to all parties by uploading same to Verilaw, on this 24th day of June 2005.

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

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Monthly Status Conference

June 28, 2005- 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Current Matters:

- 1. State Liaison Counsel
- 2. Service List of Attorneys
- 3. Trust Account
- 4. Trial Schedule
- 5. Pharmacy Indemnity Agreements
- 6. MDL Mediation & Resolution Program
- 7. Global Application of Daubert
- 8. Pro Se Plaintiffs
- 9. Verilaw/Lexis Propulsid Litigation Migration
- 10. Remand Motions
- 11. Proposed Remand Order

- 12. Preservation of Electronic Data
- 13. Motion to Amend June 28 Order Re: Special Master
- 14. The Lomax Cases
- 15. Vernon L. Gray