

**MINUTE ENTRY
FALLON, J.
OCTOBER 29, 2009**

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

IN RE: PROPULSID : **MDL NO. 1355**
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION : **SECTION "L"**
 : **JUDGE FALLON**
..... :

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES

A Monthly Status Conference was held on this date by telephone in the Chambers of Judge Eldon E. Fallon. At the conference, counsel reported to the Court on the topics set forth in Joint Report No. 79 of Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel (PLC) and Defendants' Liaison Counsel (DLC). This conference was transcribed by Ms. Jodi simcox, Official Court Reporter. Counsel may contact Ms. Simcox at (504) 589-7780 to request a copy of the transcript. A summary of the Monthly Status Conference follows.

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 claims, medical records and claimant memoranda deadlines have passed. Administrative claims are being processed and disbursements have begun. The Special Master's Office has begun clearing claims for defense briefing, and the defendants have begun submitting defense memoranda. One hundred thirty-seven (137) claims have been submitted to the Medical Panel for review, of which defendants have treated 133 on an expedited basis (these numbers are current through October 27, 2009). No claim has been found eligible.

II. 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'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, in Propulsid I, the Special Master has submitted 3,296 Tier I, II and III claims to the Medical Panel for review. Of the 3,296 claims the Defendants have treated 2,872 on an expedited basis. Twenty-five (25) of the tiered claims submitted to the Panel have been found eligible by the Panel, and the Special Master has made those awards. Two hundred twenty-eight (228) tiered claims are still in review by the Panel, two hundred fifteen (215) of which are considered expedited by the Defendants. (All numbers in this paragraph are current through October 27, 2009.) On July 8, 2009, the Special Master filed a Motion for Order to Aid in the Implementation of the Propulsid Resolution Programs. The parties await further direction from the Court with respect to the motion.

On April 29, 2008 the Court entered an Order regarding the waiver of the 6% MDL assessment fee as to those claimants found eligible by the Medical Panel. As for those claimants who have already received awards as of April 14, 2008 and whose awards were subject to the 6% assessment, the Clerk of the Court remitted a check to the Special Master to reimburse those claimants for such assessment and further, the balance of the awards, the holdback 50% of the award, was paid out from the Settlement Fund to each claimant that was found eligible for an

award, and who had previously received 50% of their award.

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 Special Master is evaluating the Tiered Claims and has concluded that a significant number of them are essentially Administrative Claims, and they are being processed as such after they have been reviewed. The parties agreed on a select number of cases that were subject to a second review, 9 of which have been deemed eligible for awards.

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. There are approximately 1,412 enrolled Tiered Claims yet to be sent to the Panel in Propulsid I, and 416 enrolled Tiered claims in Propulsid II. The parties will be prepared to discuss these issues further at the September October 29, 2009 Monthly Status Conference.

III. Attorney's Fees Issues

The PSC will be filing a motion and the Court will address the attorney fees issue at a later date.

IV. Next Status Conference

The next status conference will be held by telephone on November 20, 2009 at 1:30 p.m, Central Standard Time. The dial-in is 1-866-213-7163 and the conference ID is 39271659.