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**FILED**

JUN 14 2006

**Carol E. Higbee, P.J.Cv.**

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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT MERCK & CO., INC.

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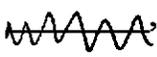
In re: VIOXX and BEXTRA and/or  
CELEBREX LITIGATIONS

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
LAW DIVISION  
ATLANTIC COUNTY

CASE NO. 273  
CIVIL ACTION

**ORDER REGARDING AUTOMATIC  
ANSWERS TO COMPLAINTS ON  
BEHALF OF MERCK & CO., INC.**

**THIS MATTER** having been brought on the Court's own motion, and for good cause shown,

IT IS on this 14 day of June, , 2006,

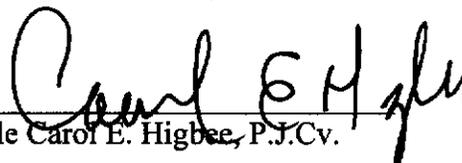
**ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Merck & Co., Inc. ("Merck") is hereby deemed to deny each and every allegation included in all paragraphs of each complaint in which a plaintiff alleges causes of action for injuries arising out of his or her use of Vioxx® and Bextra and/or Celebrex (hereinafter "Vioxx/Bextra/Celebrex Complaint"). Merck is further deemed to assert its Amended Master Long Form Answer, as may be further amended from time to time (hereinafter "Master Answer"), applicable for Case No. 619 (In re Vioxx Litigation) including the affirmative

defenses and jury demand set forth therein, in each case in which a Vioxx/Bextra/Celebrex Complaint has been filed. By virtue of these standing assertions, Merck is hereby relieved from the requirement of filing Answers and Case Information Statements in each case in which a Vioxx/Bextra/Celebrex Complaint has been filed. To the extent, in a specific case, Merck has an affirmative defense different from the ones set forth in its Master Answer, Merck shall file a pleading adopting the Master Answer and assert any additional affirmative defenses not set forth therein.

2. Upon the filing of proof of service of an initial summons and complaint against Merck in a case in which plaintiff has filed a Vioxx/Bextra/Celebrex Complaint, the Clerk's Office shall charge Dechert's Superior Court collateral account for the cost of filing an answer to that complaint.

3. This Order shall apply to all cases in which a Vioxx/Bextra/Celebrex Complaint has been filed as of the date of this Order and may in the future be filed.

  
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Honorable Carol E. Higbee, P.J.Cv.