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Carol E. Higbee, P.J.Cv.

IN RE: BEXTRA/CELEBREX LITIGATION	SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: ATLANTIC COUNTY CASE NO. 272 CIVIL ACTION **CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER NO. 1**

It appearing that all Bextra/Celebrex cases are centralized for management in Atlantic County by Order of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, dated December 6, 2005.

And it further appearing that an equitable, economic and expedient resolution of these cases require an orderly management plan for this litigation; and therefore

IT IS ON THIS 21st day of December, 2005, ORDERED as follows:

I. GENERAL APPLICABILITY

1. This Order applies to all cases filed or transferred to Atlantic County pursuant to the Supreme Court Order of December 6, 2005. The cases are centralized to avoid duplication and to prevent conflicts. These actions are not consolidated. Each case will retain its own docket number.

2. The civil "Best Practices" system for Mass Tort track IV will govern this case.

3. All orders by transferor Courts imposing dates for pleading or discovery are vacated.

4. Orders and notices common to the entire litigation may be available on the Judiciary web page for Mass Tort Litigation, which may be accessed at www.Judiciary.State.NJ.US/Mass-Tort/Index.htm.

II. CAPTIONS, PLEADINGS & SERVICE

1. All parties are to file individual complaints at Atlantic County Courthouse, 1201 Bacharach Boulevard, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401. The Case Information Statement accompanying the pleading shall identify the case code as 272.

2. Each complaint is limited to one plaintiff or a related household of plaintiffs. No plaintiff may use the caption "In re Bextra/Celebrex Litigation" on an individual complaint.

3. All pleadings, all motion papers, all correspondence shall add the letter MT after the docket number indicating Mass Tort and under the caption Civil Action shall add the title of this litigation, "Bextra/Celebrex Litigation".

4. Atlantic County shall maintain a master docket and case file caption "In Re Bextra/Celebrex Litigation". All Case Management Orders, Scheduling Orders, or other documents filed therein are deemed filed and docketed in each individual case.

III. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Each party shall preserve all documents and other records containing information potentially relevant to this litigation. Each party shall also preserve any physical evidence or potential evidence and shall not conduct any tests on physical evidence without notifying opposing counsel. Unless opposing counsel stipulate to the test, no test shall be conducted without obtaining the Court's permission.

2. Computerized data shall not be erased under existing programs until:

a) Opposing counsel have been notified of all existing programs.

IV. ATTORNEYS

1. Counsel are expected to act in a courteous, professional manner during the conduct of this litigation. Each attorney should make a good faith effort to resolve disputes out of Court and in an expeditious manner. Counsel must attempt to resolve motions before any matter is submitted to the Court and must certify to that attempt.

2. Counsel for defendant(s) shall provide to the Court an official service list updated every 30 days. The list must contain the case names, docket numbers and the dates entered on the first page. For each party, counsel must be identified by name, firm name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. From these lists, the Court will maintain on the mass tort website an official counsel list for purposes of facilitating service.

3. Counsel lists are not to be appended to any Court submission. The counsel list shall be incorporated by reference on all certificates of service, all pleadings, all motions, all correspondence. The reference should be to all counsel on the list and identify by date the last official service list for the cases.

4. Multiple Counsel: Where a party is represented by more than one counsel of record, that party shall designate the name and address of the single counsel to be the recipient of all notices, communications and pleadings. The designated counsel will be responsible for notifying co-counsel of all such matters.

5. *Pro hac Vice* Admissions:

a) An attorney seeking to appear *pro hac vice* shall apply by formal notice of motion with supporting affidavit and proposed form of order, in compliance with R. 1:21-2 of the Rules Governing the Courts of New Jersey.

b) *Pro hac vice* counsel may try the case but is not to be designated trial counsel. No proceedings shall be adjourned because *pro hac vice* counsel is not available.

c) All pleadings, motions and correspondence to the Court must be submitted by New Jersey counsel unless the Court specially waives this provision to foster settlements.

d) Out-of-state attorneys representing plaintiffs must certify that all retainer agreements with clients in the subject litigation do not, and in the future will not, violate any of the contingency fee provisions found in the Rules Governing the Courts of New Jersey for the current year.

e) All out-of-state attorneys seeking admission to represent a corporate defendant must certify as to his or her prior involvement with that corporation or its related entities, including the capacity in which he or she was involved. Further, the attorney must include in the affidavit a statement of his or her good faith belief that he or she was not involved with policy of management decisions which would require him or her to be called as a witness in any matter before the Court.

f) Counsel admitted *pro hac vice* shall be required to make annual payment to the Ethics Financial Committee and to the New Jersey Lawyers Fund for Client Protection.

V. CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

1. The Court may conduct, and the parties may request, periodic status and scheduling conferences to assess the progress regarding the matters scheduled herein. Reasonable notice of all such conferences will be provided to all counsel of record.

2. Transcripts: All case management conferences or parts thereof may be transcribed by an official Court reporter and by a reporter provided by a party. Any party desiring a transcript may order one directly from the reporter. In any proceeding in which a transcript is ordered, counsel shall ensure that one copy of the transcript is also sent to the Court.

3. Appearances: Counsel appearing at each case management conference must sign an attendance sheet, be familiar with the issues to be discussed and not schedule other matters for the date of the conference.

4. Compliance: All counsel are required to comply with the provisions of each case management order whether or not he or she was in attendance at the conference giving rise to the Order.

VI. MOTIONS

1. Filing Requirement: All motions are to be filed with the Mass Tort Team, Superior Court of New Jersey, Atlantic County Courthouse, 1201 Bacharach Boulevard, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401. All motion papers must include a return date, scheduled for a regular motion Friday. Courtesy copies for the Judge are not required.

2. Any motion that is applicable to more than one case shall be noted on the first page by listing each docket number or if all, the notation "applicable to all cases".

3. Any motion that is applicable to more than one party in a case shall be jointly filed by counsel.

4. Copies: Counsel shall file no more than one original copy of each Notice of Motion, supporting documents and proposed form of Order or Recommendation with the Mass Tort Team, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the signed Order or Recommendation. One additional copy of these papers may be supplied if a request is made for a return of that copy marked "filed".

5. Specific of proper form of orders:

a) A proposed form of Order shall be submitted for all motions and a stamped self-addressed envelope must be included.

6. Captions: Captions on motions are the same as on pleadings and require the MT for Mass Tort after the docket number and the designation "BEXTRA/CELEBREX LITIGATION".

7. Motions: Conference with the Court is required before any motion related to discovery issues is filed. No summary judgment motions shall be filed before discovery is complete. All motions *in limine*, motions for Frye/Daubert, Perez or Lopez hearings shall be scheduled by the Court during pre-trial management conferences.

8. Oral Argument:

a) No oral argument shall be held for discovery motions unless granted by the Court in response to the request of a party.

CASE CONFERENCE

The Honorable Carol E. Higbee will hold an in-person case management conference on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., at Atlantic County Courthouse, Courtroom 3-B, 1201 Bacharach Boulevard, Atlantic City, New Jersey. At this conference, the court will discuss:

1. Liaison counsel;
2. Master Complaint form;
3. Filing of Answers;
4. VIOXX® cases involving Bextra/Celebrex.

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