NOTICE TO THE BAR

CENTRALIZED CASE MANAGEMENT – PELVIC MESH LITIGATION – (1) ETHICON/GYNECARE/JOHNSON & JOHNSON; (2) BARD

Previous notices to the bar requested comments on two applications for the centralized management of New Jersey state court litigation involving pelvic mesh products – the first involving products manufactured by Ethicon/Gynecare/Johnson & Johnson ("Johnson & Johnson") (notice dated March 5, 2010) and the second involving products manufactured by C.R.Bard, Inc. ("Bard") (notice dated June 22, 2010). The applications, submitted pursuant to Court Rule 4:38A and the Revised Mass Tort Guidelines as promulgated by Directive #10-07, requested centralized management without mass tort designation of the litigation and assignment to one of the designated mass tort counties. This Notice is to advise that the Supreme Court, after considering the two applications and the comments received, has determined to assign all pending and future pelvic mesh state court litigation involving Johnson & Johnson and all such litigation involving Bard to Atlantic County (Superior Court Judge Carol E. Higbee) for centralized management without mass tort designation. The case management of the Johnson & Johnson pelvic mesh litigation and the Bard pelvic mesh litigation shall be separate but coordinated.

Accordingly, published with this Notice are (1) the Supreme Court's September 13, 2010 Order relating to both the Johnson & Johnson litigation and the Bard litigation; (2) Judge Higbee's September 27, 2010 Case Management Order in the Johnson & Johnson litigation; and (3) Judge Higbee's separate September 27, 2010 Case Management Order in the Bard litigation. The Supreme Court's order and the Johnson & Johnson and Bard case management orders also are posted on the Judiciary's Internet website (www.njcourts.com) in the Mass Tort Information Center (http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/mass-tort/index.htm).

Questions concerning this matter may be directed to Taironda E. Phoenix, Esq., Staff Attorney, Civil Practice Division, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; telephone (609) 292-8471; email address taironda.phoenix@judiciary.state.nj.us.

/s/ Glenn A. Grant

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: October 12, 2010

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

On application made pursuant to Rule 4:38A, it is hereby ORDERED that, all New Jersey state court actions currently pending seeking damages or other relief involving the use of pelvic mesh products manufactured by Ethicon, Inc., Ethicon Women's Health and Urology, Gynecare, and/or Johnson & Johnson (collectively hereinafter referred to as "the J & J litigation"), though not designated as a mass tort, shall be assigned for centralized case management purposes to Superior Court, Law Division, Atlantic County for handling by Superior Court Judge Carol Higbee, with venue in such cases transferred to Atlantic County; and

Also on application made pursuant to Rule 4:38A, it is hereby FURTHER ORDERED that, all New Jersey state court actions currently pending seeking damages or other relief involving the use of pelvic mesh products manufactured by C.R. Bard, Inc. ("the Bard litigation"), though not designated as a mass tort, shall be assigned for centralized case management purposes to Superior Court, Law Division, Atlantic County for handling by Superior Court Judge Carol Higbee, with venue in such cases transferred to Atlantic County; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that the centralized case management of the J & J litigation and the Bard litigation shall be kept separate, but shall be coordinated; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that any and all such complaints that have been filed in any other county shall be transferred to Superior Court, Law Division, Atlantic County and assigned to Judge Higbee; and that, pursuant to *N.J. Const*. (1947), Art. VI, sec. 2, par. 3, the provisions of Rule 4:3-2 governing venue in the Superior Court are supplemented and relaxed such that all future such complaints, no matter where

they might be venued, shall be filed in Atlantic County and assigned to Judge Higbee; and

It is FUTHER ORDERED that Judge Higbee shall oversee all management and trial issues in these matters and may, in her discretion, return such cases to the original county of venue for disposition; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that no Mediator or other Master (in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4:41) may be appointed in this litigation without the express prior approval of the Chief Justice.

For the Court,

/s/ Stuart Rabner

Chief Justice

Dated: September 13, 2010

FILED

SEP 27 2010

Carol E. Higbee, P.J.Cv.

	SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: ATLANTIC COUNTY
IN RE: J & J LITIGATION	CASE NO. 291 CIVIL ACTION **CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER NO. 1**

It appearing that all J & J cases are centralized for management in Atlantic County by Order of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, dated September 13, 2010.

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 27th day of September, 2010, ORDERED as follows:

I. GENERAL APPLICABILITY

1. This Order applies to all cases previously filed and all those hereinafter filed or transferred to Atlantic County pursuant to the Supreme Court Order of September 13, 2010. The cases are centralized to avoid duplication and to prevent conflicts. Each case will retain its own docket number.

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

3. 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 although this litigation has not been designated a mass tort.

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 291.

2. Each complaint is limited to one plaintiff or a related household of plaintiffs. No plaintiff may use the caption "In re J & J Litigation" on an individual complaint. If a complaint has been filed with multiple unrelated plaintiffs, new individual complaints must be filed within thirty (30) days, and the court will, if requested, sign an Order preserving the original file date.

3. All pleadings, all motion papers, all correspondence shall add the letter CT after the docket number indicating Coordinated Tort and under the caption Civil Action shall add the title of this litigation, "J & J Litigation", Case No. 291.

4. Atlantic County shall maintain a master docket and case file caption "In Re J & J 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 60 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.

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 will 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 with permission of the Court if an official Court reporter is unavailable. 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 Civil Clerk's Office-Team 4, 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 all cases shall be filed in one omnibus motion using the master docket number assigned and the caption "In re J & J Litigation." In the event any motion, including *pro hac vice* motions, involves more than one individual case but not all cases, an omnibus motion and omnibus Order, shall be filed with a Schedule A attached listing the individual cases and docket numbers involved in the omnibus motion. Counsel shall also provide extra copies of the proposed Order for each case listed on Schedule A for the court to file in each individual case file jacket.

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

4. Where the motion applies to more than one case, motion fees will be charged for each case, but if motion is a motion related to all cases filed under the master docket number, the court will charge for one motion.

5. 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 Team 4, 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".

6. 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.

7. Captions: Captions on motions are the same as on pleadings and require the CT for Coordinated Tort after the docket number and the designation "J & J LITIGATION".

8. 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, except as allowed by the Court. All motions *in limine*, motions for Frye/Daubert, Perez or Lopez hearings shall be scheduled by the Court during pre-trial management conferences.

9. 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 Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 1:30 p.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. Initial Discovery Issues;
5. Timeline of Key Dates;
6. Types of Injury claimed;
7. List of characteristics that may be representative of different groups of plaintiff, such as age, gender, pre-existing conditions, etc.

Carol E. Higbee

CAROL E. HIGBEE, P.J.Cv.

FILED

SEP 27 2010

Carol E. Higbee, P.J.Cv.

IN RE: BARD LITIGATION	SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: ATLANTIC COUNTY CASE NO. 292 CIVIL ACTION **CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER NO. 1**

It appearing that all Bard cases are centralized for management in Atlantic County by Order of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, dated September 13, 2010.

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 27th day of September, 2010, ORDERED as follows:

I. GENERAL APPLICABILITY

1. This Order applies to all cases previously filed and all those hereinafter filed or transferred to Atlantic County pursuant to the Supreme Court Order of September 13, 2010. The cases are centralized to avoid duplication and to prevent conflicts. Each case will retain its own docket number.

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

3. 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 although this litigation has not been designated a mass tort.

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 292.

2. Each complaint is limited to one plaintiff or a related household of plaintiffs. No plaintiff may use the caption "In re Bard Litigation" on an individual complaint. If a complaint has been filed with multiple unrelated plaintiffs, new individual complaints must be filed within thirty (30) days, and the court will, if requested, sign an Order preserving the original file date.

3. All pleadings, all motion papers, all correspondence shall add the letter CT after the docket number indicating Coordinated Tort and under the caption Civil Action shall add the title of this litigation, "Bard Litigation", Case No. 292.

4. Atlantic County shall maintain a master docket and case file caption "In Re Bard 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 60 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.

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.

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

4. Where the motion applies to more than one case, motion fees will be charged for each case, but if motion is a motion related to all cases filed under the master docket number, the court will charge for one motion.

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6. 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.

7. Captions: Captions on motions are the same as on pleadings and require the CT for Coordinated Tort after the docket number and the designation "BARD LITIGATION".

8. 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, except as allowed by the Court. All motions *in limine*, motions for Frye/Daubert, Perez or Lopez hearings shall be scheduled by the Court during pre-trial management conferences.

9. Oral Argument:

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1. Liaison counsel;
2. Master Complaint form;
3. Filing of Answers;
4. Initial Discovery Issues;
5. Timeline of Key Dates;
6. Types of Injury claimed;
7. List of characteristics that may be representative of different groups of plaintiff, such as age, gender, pre-existing conditions, etc.

Carol E Higbee

CAROL E. HIGBEE, P.J.Cv.