

PREPARED BY THE COURT

BRANDI CARL,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON, et al.,

Defendants.

DOCKET NO. ATL-L-06546-14

**TALC-BASED POWDER
PRODUCTS LITIGATION
CASE NO. 300**

CIVIL ACTION

DIANA BALDERRAMA,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON, et al.,

Defendants.

DOCKET NO. ATL-L-6540-14

**TALC-BASED POWDER
PRODUCTS LITIGATION
CASE NO. 300**

CIVIL ACTION

THIS MATTER comes before the Court *sua sponte* regarding the appointment of a Special Adjudicator pursuant to the October 20, 2015 order designating the talc-based body power products litigation as a MultiCounty Litigation (“MCL”) and to address the pending New Jersey Rule of Evidence 702 *Accutane-related* motions (“Motions”) in the above-captioned matters. Having determined the necessity of appointing a Special Adjudicator to assist the Court in resolving the Motions, and having conferred with the parties regarding the Court's intention to appoint the Honorable Freda L. Wolfson, U.S.D.J. (ret.) of the firm Lowenstein Sandler LLP (“Lowenstein Sandler”) as the Special Adjudicator to address these Motions, this Court makes the following findings:

1. The appointment of a Special Adjudicator Master is both necessary and appropriate in this MCL, where here, there are numerous pending pretrial Motions and the appointment of a Special

Adjudicator would facilitate the prompt adjudication of said Motions and minimize delay in these proceedings.

2. Judge Wolfson is well-qualified to serve as a Special Adjudicator in this MCL because she was the former District Judge who presided over the MDL prior to her retirement from the District Court of New Jersey, and is therefore intimately familiar with the case, disputed issues, and the *Daubert*-related arguments raised by the parties' Rule 702 Motions, as well as the *Accutane*-related arguments. The Rule 702 Motions in the MDL are substantially similar to those filed in this MCL. Judge Wolfson shall apply the *Accutane* standard to the motion in the MCL.

3. Judge Wolfson was appointed as a limited purpose Special Master in the MDL pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53(a) to address the pending *Daubert*-related motions on June 26, 2025.

4. In the MDL, Judge Wolfson submitted an affidavit, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53(b)(3) attesting that no grounds for disqualification under 28 U.S.C. § 455 exist.

5. Judge Wolfson advised that her firm, Lowenstein Sandler, does not represent any of the named parties in the MDL or the MCL nor has she ever personally represented any of the named parties in either the MDL or MCL.

6. Judge Wolfson also advised that while Lowenstein Sandler represents Johnson & Johnson in distinct matters, those matters are

“corporate-related” and “wholly unrelated” to the MDL and MCL. Moreover, she has not had any involvement with any of those matters since joining the firm.

7. Judge Wolfson advised that since late December 2023, she has served as Special Master in *Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems Inc. v. Save On SP, LLC, et al.*, Civil Action No. 22-2632, in which the plaintiff is a Johnson & Johnson affiliate. To avoid any potential conflict, “an ethical wall has been in place between [her] and all matters involving Johnson & Johnson” at Lowenstein Sandler.

8. Judge Wolfson further advised that, as counsel for the parties are aware, she served as a “mock judge” for a Johnson & Johnson affiliate, Kenvue, in an unrelated and since-concluded matter.

9. Judge Wolfson represented that she is “confident that none of these relationships would preclude [her] from being impartial or unbiased as the [limited-purpose] Special Master in the [] MDL” or as the Special Adjudicator in the MCL.

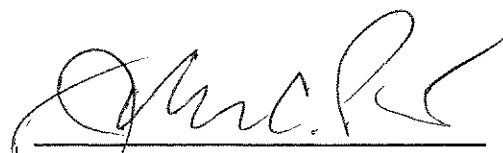
10. On September 10, 2025 and July 14, 2025, the parties e-filed correspondence consenting to the proposed appointment of Judge Wolfson as the Special Adjudicator in the MCL.

11. Having carefully considered Judge Wolfson's appointment in the MDL and the parties' e-filed correspondence, this Court finds that there is no conflict that would preclude Judge Wolfson's involvement in this MCL.


Accordingly,

IT IS on this 26th day of September 2025, **ORDERED** that:

1. The Honorable Freda L. Wolfson, U.S.D.J. (ret.), is appointed as Special Adjudicator to address the pending Motions in the above captioned MCL cases.
2. Judge Wolfson shall be compensated on terms to be agreed upon jointly by the parties and the Special Adjudicator before addressing the Motions. Judge Wolfson may employ any attorneys and paralegals at her firm to assist her in administering her duties under this Order as she deems necessary. The parties shall share the costs of her services and any related expenses in equal shares, unless they agree otherwise. Any disputes concerning compensation or allocation of fees shall be presented to this Court only if the parties jointly agree to do so.


John C. Porto, P.J.Cv.

Chief Justice approval pursuant
To the October 20, 2015 Supreme
Court Order:


Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Date: 9/26/25