

NOTICE TO THE BAR

MULTICOUNTY LITIGATION DESIGNATION – LITIGATION ALLEGING FIREFIGHTER HEARING LOSS FROM EXCESSIVE NOISE EXPOSURE FROM CERTAIN FEDERAL SIGNAL CORPORATION-MANUFACTURED FIRE ENGINE SIRENS

A previous Notice to the Bar requested comments on an application for multicounty litigation (MCL) designation of New Jersey state court litigation alleging occupational hearing loss as a result of excessive noise exposure from certain fire engine sirens manufactured by Federal Signal Corporation. This Notice is to advise that the Supreme Court, after considering the application and the comments received, has determined to designate all litigation involving such allegations of occupational hearing loss as multicounty litigation. The Court has assigned this MCL to Atlantic County for centralized case management by Superior Court Judge Nelson C. Johnson.

Published with this Notice is the Supreme Court's September 26, 2017 Order. This Order and Judge Johnson's November 27, 2017 Initial Case Management Order are both posted in the Multicounty Litigation Center <http://www.njcourts.gov/attorneys/mcl/index.html> on the Judiciary's Internet website (www.njcourts.gov).

Questions concerning this matter may be directed to Taironda E. Phoenix, Esq., Chief, Civil Court Programs, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; telephone: (609) 815-2900 ext. 54901; email address: taironda.phoenix@njcourts.gov.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Glenn A. Grant" followed by a stylized monogram or initials.

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

Dated: January 5, 2018

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

On application made pursuant to Rule 4:38A and the Multicounty Litigation Guidelines promulgated by Directive # 08-12 in accordance with that Rule, it is hereby ORDERED that all pending and future New Jersey state court actions alleging occupational hearing loss by firefighters as a result of excessive noise exposure from certain fire engine sirens manufactured by Federal Signal Corporation be designated as multicounty litigation ("MCL") for centralized management purposes; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that any and all such complaints that have been filed in the various counties and that are under or are awaiting case management and/or discovery shall be transferred from the county of venue to the Superior Court, Law Division, Atlantic County; 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 venued, shall be filed in Atlantic County; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that Superior Court Judge Nelson C. Johnson shall oversee management and trial issues for such cases and may, in his discretion, return such cases to the original county of venue for disposition, and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that no Mediator or Master may be appointed in this litigation without the express prior approval of the Chief Justice.

For the Court,



Chief Justice

Dated: September 26, 2017