

NOTICE TO THE BAR

MULTICOUNTY LITIGATION – DESIGNATION OF PINNACLE METAL-ON-METAL (MOM) HIP IMPLANT LITIGATION AS MCL

A previous Notice to the Bar requested comments on an application for multicounty litigation (MCL) designation of New Jersey state-court litigation alleging injuries caused by Pinnacle Metal-on-Metal (MoM) Hip Implants. This Notice is to advise that the Supreme Court on May 17, 2023, after considering the application and the comments received, determined to designate cases involving allegations against Johnson & Johnson and Depuy Synthes Sales, Inc. as multicounty litigation. The Court assigned this MCL to Bergen County for centralized case management by Superior Court Judge Rachelle Harz from May 17, 2023 through May 31, 2023 and thereafter by Superior Court Judge Gregg A. Padovano effective June 1, 2023.

Published with this Notice is the Supreme Court's May 17, 2023 Order. This Order is posted in the Multicounty Litigation Center <https://www.njcourts.gov/attorneys/multicounty-litigation> on the Judiciary's website (www.njcourts.gov). The Initial Case Management Order for this MCL will be posted in the Multicounty Litigation Center.

Questions concerning this matter may be directed to Melissa A. Czartoryski, Chief, Civil Practice Division, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P. O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; telephone: (609) 815-2900 ext. 54901; e-mail address: Melissa.Czartoryski@njcourts.gov.



Glenn A. Grant
Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: June 7, 2023

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

On application made pursuant to Rule 4:38A and the Multicounty Litigation Guidelines and Criteria for Designation (Revised) promulgated by Directive #02-19 in accordance with that Rule, it is hereby ORDERED that all pending and future New Jersey state court actions against Johnson & Johnson and Depuy Synthes Sales, Inc. alleging injuries as a result of the use of **Pinnacle Metal-on-Metal (MoM) Hip Implants** be designated as multicounty litigation (“MCL”) for centralized management purposes; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED effective immediately 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, Bergen County and that, pursuant to N.J. Const., Art.VI, sec.2, par.3, the provisions of Rule 4:3-2 governing venue in the Superior Court are supplemented and relaxed so that all future such complaints, no matter where they might be venued, shall be filed in Bergen County; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that Superior Court Judge Rachelle L. Harz, effective immediately through May 31, 2023, and Superior Court Judge Gregg A. Padovano, effective June 1, 2023 until further order, shall oversee management and trial issues for such cases and may, in their 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shant R. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Justice

Dated: May 17, 2023