

UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL
on
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

**IN RE: ETHICON, INC., PELVIC
REPAIR SYSTEM PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION**

Mary Schillachi v. Christopher Roberts, M.D., et al.,)
W.D. Missouri, C.A. No. 3:13-05063) MDL No. 2327

TRANSFER ORDER

Before the Panel: Pursuant to Panel Rule 7.1, plaintiff moves to vacate our order that conditionally transferred this action (*Schillachi*) to MDL No. 2327. Responding defendants Ethicon, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson, Inc. (collectively Ethicon) oppose the motion to vacate.

After considering all argument of counsel, we find this action involves common questions of fact with the actions previously transferred to MDL No. 2327, and that transfer will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation. Plaintiff does not dispute that this action shares questions of fact with MDL No. 2327. Like many of the already-centralized actions, *Schillachi* involves factual questions arising from allegations that a pelvic surgical mesh product manufactured by Ethicon and related entities was defectively designed, manufactured and marketed, resulting in serious injuries, and that defendants failed to provide appropriate warnings and instructions regarding the risks and dangers posed by the device. *See In re: Ethicon, Inc., Pelvic Repair Sys. Prods. Liab. Litig., et al.*, 844 F. Supp. 2d 1359 (J.P.M.L. 2012).

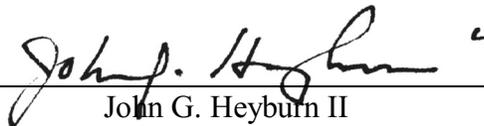
In support of the motion to vacate, plaintiff argues that this action was improperly removed and plaintiff's motion to remand to state court is pending. The Panel often has held that jurisdictional issues do not present an impediment to transfer, as plaintiff can present such arguments to the transferee judge.¹ *See, e.g., In re: Prudential Ins. Co. of Am. Sales Practices Litig.*, 170 F. Supp. 2d 1346, 1347-48 (J.P.M.L. 2001).

¹ Moreover, under Panel Rule 2.1(d), the pendency of a conditional transfer order does not limit the pretrial jurisdiction of the court in which the subject action is pending. Between the date a remand or other motion is filed and the date the Panel finalizes transfer of the action to the MDL, a court wishing to rule upon that motion generally has adequate time to do so. Moreover, the transferor judge here has declined to rule on the motion to remand and has issued a stay in the action.

-2-

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, this action is transferred to the Southern District of West Virginia and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Joseph R. Goodwin for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.

PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION



John G. Heyburn II

Chairman

Kathryn H. Vratil
Marjorie O. Rendell
Lewis A. Kaplan

Paul J. Barbadoro
Charles R. Breyer
Sarah S. Vance