

UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL
on
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

**IN RE: JOHNSON & JOHNSON TALCUM POWDER
PRODUCTS MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES
AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

MDL No. 2738

TRANSFER ORDER

Before the Panel:* Plaintiffs in the five actions pending in the Eastern District of Missouri and listed on Schedule A move under Panel Rule 7.1 to vacate our orders that conditionally transferred their respective actions to the District of New Jersey for inclusion in MDL No. 2738. Defendants Johnson & Johnson, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., and Imerys Talc America, Inc., oppose the motions.

In support of their motions to vacate, plaintiffs argue that federal subject matter jurisdiction is lacking, and plaintiffs' motions to remand to state court are pending. The Panel, though, has held that jurisdictional issues generally do not present an impediment to transfer, as plaintiffs can present these 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). Plaintiffs also argue that transfer will cause them inconvenience and delay the progress of their actions. While it might inconvenience some parties, transfer of a particular action often is necessary to further the expeditious resolution of the litigation taken as a whole. *See, e.g., In re Crown Life Ins. Premium Litig.*, 178 F. Supp. 2d 1365, 1366 (J.P.M.L. 2001). The transferee judge is in the best position to structure proceedings so as to minimize inconvenience to any individual party.

Therefore, after considering the argument of counsel, we find that these actions involve common questions of fact with the actions transferred to MDL No. 2738, and that transfer under 28 U.S.C. § 1407 will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation. In our order centralizing this litigation, we held that the District of New Jersey was an appropriate Section 1407 forum for actions sharing factual questions arising from allegations that plaintiffs or their decedents developed ovarian or other gynecological cancer following perineal application of Johnson & Johnson's talcum powder products (namely, Johnson's

* One or more Panel members who could be members of the putative classes in this docket have renounced their participation in these classes and have participated in the decision.

¹ Panel Rule 2.1(d) expressly provides that 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 motion is filed and the date that transfer of the action to the MDL is finalized, a court generally has adequate time to rule on a remand motion if it chooses to do so.

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Baby Powder and Shower to Shower body powder). *See In re Johnson & Johnson Talcum Powder Prods. Mktg., Sales Practices & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2738, __ F. Supp. 3d __, 2016 WL 5845997 (J.P.M.L. Oct. 4, 2016). Plaintiffs do not dispute that their actions share multiple factual issues with those already in the MDL.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the actions listed on Schedule A are transferred to the District of New Jersey and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Freda L. Wolfson for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.

PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION



Sarah S. Vance
Chair

Marjorie O. Rendell
Lewis A. Kaplan
R. David Proctor

Charles R. Breyer
Ellen Segal Huvelle
Catherine D. Perry

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SCHEDULE A

Eastern District of Missouri

MOORE, ET AL. v. JOHNSON & JOHNSON, ET AL., C.A. No. 4:16-01915
HINTON, ET AL. v. JOHNSON & JOHNSON, ET AL., C.A. No. 4:16-01934
JONES, ET AL. v. JOHNSON & JOHNSON, ET AL., C.A. No. 4:16-01943
REA, ET AL. v. JOHNSON & JOHNSON, ET AL., C.A. No. 4:16-02165
LAGRONE, ET AL. v. JOHNSON & JOHNSON, ET AL., C.A. No. 4:17-00066