

UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL
on
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

**IN RE: ZF-TRW AIRBAG CONTROL UNITS PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION**

MDL No. 2905

TRANSFER ORDER

Before the Panel:* Defendant STMicroelectronics, Inc. (STM USA), in the *Renteria* action listed on Schedule A moves under Panel Rule 7.1 to vacate the order that conditionally transferred the action to MDL No. 2905. Plaintiffs in the *Renteria* action oppose the motion.

After considering the argument of counsel, we find that this action involves common questions of fact with the actions previously transferred to MDL No. 2905 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. The MDL actions arise from allegations that airbag control units (ACUs) manufactured by ZF TRW Automotive Holdings Corp., TRW Automotive Inc., TRW Automotive U.S. LLC, and TRW Vehicle Safety Systems Inc. (together, the ZF TRW defendants) are defective. *See In re ZF-TRW Airbag Control Units Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 410 F. Supp. 3d 1357 (J.P.M.L. 2019). Defendants in the litigation include, in addition to the ZF TRW defendants, manufacturers of the allegedly defective chip in the ACUs and manufacturers of vehicles in which the ACUs were installed. Plaintiffs in the *Renteria* action allege that STM USA denied and downplayed the safety defect in the subject ACUs.

In opposing transfer, STM USA argues that *Renteria* does not substantially overlap with the MDL. It contends that the MDL involves defendants not named in *Renteria* and that the MDL is focused on RICO claims not asserted in *Renteria*. STM USA also argues that MDL plaintiffs allege the MDL defendants concealed facts from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), whereas the *Renteria* plaintiffs allege that STM USA misled consumers. We do not find these arguments persuasive. Plaintiffs in *Renteria* allege that STM USA conspired with the MDL defendants to mislead NHTSA and consumers to avoid recalls of the same defective ACUs at issue in the MDL, which were installed in airbag systems in the same automobiles. And the *Renteria* complaint includes claims under the same state consumer protection laws asserted in the operative consolidated class action complaint in the MDL. In sum, there is extensive overlap between the *Renteria* complaint and the MDL complaint.

STM USA also contends that transfer should be denied because plaintiffs filed the *Renteria* action in an improper attempt to evade the transferee court's August 2025 order dismissing all

* Judges Karen K. Caldwell and Madeline Cox Arleo did not participate in the decision of this matter.

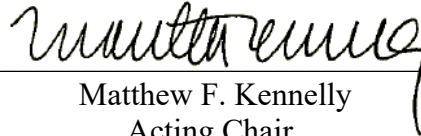
claims asserted against STM USA for lack of personal jurisdiction. As STM USA notes, the August 2025 order gave MDL plaintiffs 60 days to amend their complaint, but plaintiffs instead chose to file a new action in the District of Delaware, where STM USA is incorporated, and to notice that action as a potential tag-along action in the MDL. This seems to us a stronger argument *for* transfer than against. Judge Kronstadt is uniquely well-positioned to determine whether plaintiffs' conduct in filing *Renteria* was inconsistent in any way with his August 2025 order and, if so, what the consequences should be. *See, e.g.*, Transfer Order at 2, *In re Syngenta AG MIR162 Corn Litig.*, MDL No. 2591 (J.P.M.L. Apr. 12, 2024), ECF No. 887 (transferring action to “allow[] the transferee court the opportunity to rule on the effect of his prior orders”).¹

Finally, STM USA contends that transfer is inappropriate based on the procedural posture of the MDL. It notes that the MDL has been pending for nearly seven years, that defendants' second round of motions to dismiss was resolved in August 2025, that discovery now is underway, and that discovery cut-offs have been set in July and October 2026. STM USA states that it intends to move to dismiss the *Renteria* claims as time-barred and that such a motion, if filed in the MDL court, may result in a discovery stay and months or years of delay. While it is possible that a motion to dismiss would cause proceedings as to STM USA to lag behind those relating to other defendants, we do not view this as sufficient reason to exclude the action from the MDL. According to plaintiffs, STM USA already has produced a substantial quantity of documents in the MDL, as have its foreign sister company defendants, STMMicroelectronics SDN BHD and STMMicroelectronics S.r.l. Even if discovery against STM USA proceeds on a different schedule than that established for other defendants, transfer seems the most efficient course. The transferee court can establish a separate track for the claims against STM USA as it deems appropriate. If Judge Kronstadt concludes that *Renteria* should proceed separately from the MDL, he can suggest Section 1407 remand, which will be accomplished with minimum delay. *See* Panel Rules 10.1-10.3.

¹ *See also* Transfer Order at 2, *In re Diet Drugs Phentermine/Fenfluramine/Dexfenfluramine Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 1203 (J.P.M.L. Oct. 13, 2015), ECF No. 3159 (transferring action, the resolution of which “likely will require the interpretation and possibly enforcement of pretrial orders entered in MDL No. 1203—tasks that can be most efficiently conducted by the transferee court, which issued those orders”).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the action listed on Schedule A is transferred to the Central District of California and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable John A. Kronstadt for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.

PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION



Matthew F. Kennelly
Acting Chair

David C. Norton
M. Casey Rodgers

Dale A. Kimball

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LIABILITY LITIGATION**

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SCHEDULE A

District of Delaware

RENTERIA, ET AL. v. STMICROELECTRONICS, INC., C.A. No. 1:26-00087