

NOTICE TO THE BAR

Re: Designation of Lead-Based Paint Litigation as a Mass Tort

Accompanying the publication of this Notice to the Bar is a copy of an Order dated February 11, 2002 signed by Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz. The Order designates as a mass tort all pending and future litigation statewide seeking damages or other relief arising out of the manufacture, sale, distribution or use of lead-based paint and transfers the management of all such cases to Middlesex County to be handled on a coordinated basis by the Honorable Marina Corodemus with the assistance of a Special Master appointed with the approval of the Chief Justice.

Dated: February 20, 2002

Richard J. Williams

Administrative Director of the Courts

SUPREME COURT ORDER

It is hereby ORDERED that, in the matter of all pending and future litigation involving damages or other relief arising out of the manufacture, sale, distribution and/or use of lead-based paint, all complaints that have been filed in the various counties and that are under case management or in discovery or awaiting case management and discovery are transferred from the county of venue to Superior Court, Law Division, Middlesex County (Vicinage No. 8), and assigned to the Honorable Marina Corodemus;

It is FURTHER ORDERED that venue in all existing such litigation as specified above is transferred to Middlesex County (Vicinage No. 8); and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to N.J. Const. (1947), Art.VI, sec.2, par.3, Rule 4:3-2 governing venue in the Superior Court is supplemented and relaxed so that all future complaints seeking damages or other relief arising out of the manufacture, sale, distribution and/or use of lead-based paint, no matter where they might be venued, shall be transferred to Middlesex County (Vicinage No. 8) and assigned to Judge Corodemus; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that Judge Corodemus, with the assistance of a Special Master appointed with approval of the Chief Justice, shall oversee all management and trial issues for such cases and may, in her discretion, return such cases to the original county of venue for further disposition; and

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

For the Court

Chief Justice

Dated: February 11, 2002

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