


NOTICE TO THE BAR

MULTICOUNTY LITIGATION (MCL) DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN NEW JERSEY STATE-COURT LITIGATION INVOLVING TALC-BASED BODY POWDER PRODUCTS USED FOR FEMININE HYGIENE PURPOSES

A previous Notice to the Bar requested comments on an application for multicounty litigation (MCL) designation of certain New Jersey state court litigation involving talc-based body powder products used for feminine hygiene purposes. This Notice is to advise that the Supreme Court, after considering the application and comments received, has determined to designate litigation alleging personal injuries resulting from use of talc-based body powder products for feminine hygiene purposes as multicounty litigation. The Court has assigned this litigation to Atlantic County for centralized case management by Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez and Judge Nelson C. Johnson.

Published with this Notice is the Supreme Court's October 20, 2015 MCL designation order. This order and Judge Johnson's November 20, 2015 Initial Case Management Order are both posted in the Multicounty Litigation Information Center (<http://Judiciary.state.nj.us/multicounty/index.htm>) on the Judiciary's Internet website (www.njcourts.com).

Questions concerning this matter may be directed to Taironda E. Phoenix, Chief, Civil Court Programs, Civil Practice Division, Administrative Office of the Courts, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 981, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0981; telephone (609) 292-8471; email address: taironda.phoenix@judiciary.state.nj.us.

Handwritten signature of Glenn A. Grant in cursive, with a small 'k' and 'SPB' to the right.

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: November 25, 2015

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

On application made pursuant to Rule 4:38A and the Multicounty Litigation Guidelines promulgated by Directive # 08-12 in accordance with that Rule, it is hereby ORDERED that all pending and future New Jersey state court actions against Johnson & Johnson, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc., Imerys Talc America, Inc., f/k/a Luzenac America and Personal Care Products Council, involving certain talc-based body powder products used for feminine hygiene purposes be designated as multicounty litigation ("MCL") for centralized case management purposes; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED 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 Superior Court, Law Division, Atlantic County and that, pursuant to N.J. Const. (1947), 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 venued, shall be filed in Atlantic County; and

It is FURTHER ORDERED that Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez and Judge Nelson C. Johnson shall oversee management of such cases, with Judge Johnson to handle all trial issues for such cases, which cases may, in the court's discretion, be returned to the original county of venue for disposition; and

If 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



Chief Justice

Dated: October 20, 2015