

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

IN RE: BENICAR (OLMESARTAN)
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

Honorable Robert B. Kugler
Magistrate Judge Schneider

This Document Relates To All Actions

Civil No. 15-2606 (RBK) (JS)
MDL No. 2606

**PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENTS TO THE
PLAINTIFFS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE FORMATION
OF A PLAINTIFFS' STEERING COMMITTEE**

In accordance with Plaintiffs' Position Statement and presentation before the court on April 28, 2015, plaintiffs submit the following lawyers to serve as members of the **Plaintiffs' Executive Committee**:

Christopher Coffin is a partner with Pendley, Baudin & Coffin, L.L.P., located in New Orleans, Louisiana, and has years of experience litigating complex cases involving defective pharmaceutical products and medical devices. He received his BSN from University of Cincinnati and his JD from University of Maryland. Mr. Coffin has been a leader in multiple MDL actions throughout the United States. He has served as Co-Lead Counsel in two separate MDL cases involving pharmaceutical products: *In re: Celexa and Lexapro Products Liability Litigation*, in the Eastern District of Missouri, and *In re: Celexa and Lexapro Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation*, in the District of Massachusetts. He has also served as Co-Lead Counsel in a non-pharmaceutical products MDL, *In re: Atlas Roofing Products Liability Litigation*, in the Northern District of Georgia. In addition, Mr. Coffin has served as a court-appointed member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the following pharmaceutical and medical device MDL cases: *In re: Paxil Products Liability Litigation*, in the Central District of California; *In re: Zolofit Products Liability Litigation*, in the Eastern

District of Pennsylvania; *In re: Effexor Products Liability Litigation*, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; *In re: Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II Hip Implant Products Liability Litigation*, in the District of Minnesota; and *In re: Lipitor (Atorvastatin Calcium) Marketing, Sales Practices and Product Liability Litigation*, in the District of South Carolina.

In addition to his legal education and experience, Mr. Coffin has been a registered nurse for over nineteen (19) years. He has been licensed as a registered nurse in Ohio, Georgia, Maryland and Virginia, and he currently maintains his license in the State of Louisiana. Throughout his years of education and experience in nursing, Mr. Coffin has formally studied pharmacology, epidemiology, anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology, and he has treated hundreds of patients diagnosed with hypertension or gastrointestinal illnesses.

Mr. Coffin filed the first Benicar (olmesartan) case in the country on January 13, 2014, the *von Eberstein* case, and has been litigating olmesartan cases since that time. Over the last year, he has dedicated a significant amount of his time and resources to educating other lawyers about the law and science related to the Benicar (olmesartan) litigation through multiple presentations at national litigation conferences.

Mr. Coffin would be in the position of Co-Lead counsel and a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee.

Adam Slater is a partner in the Roseland, New Jersey firm of Mazie, Slater, Katz & Freeman. He is a graduate of Tulane University and obtained his JD at Boston University. He has been a member of the New Jersey Bar since 1994 and is also admitted to the United States District Court of New Jersey, the Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and several other jurisdictions. Mr. Slater specializes in complex civil litigation, particularly personal

injury, product liability, and medical malpractice, and is a certified civil trial attorney. Mr. Slater is currently co-liaison counsel for the New Jersey consolidation of pelvic mesh cases against Johnson & Johnson and Ethicon, numbering approximately 7600 cases. Mr. Slater was lead trial counsel for the first bellwether trial against these defendants, and has tried additional Johnson & Johnson/Ethicon mesh cases including an MDL bellwether trial in the Southern District of West Virginia before the Hon. Joseph Goodwin in March, 2015.

Mr. Slater also litigates class actions, including appointment as co-class counsel in a class action in the District of Jersey against Volkswagen and Audi on behalf of 5 million owners and lessees, which settled before the Hon. Patty Schwartz, and was ultimately affirmed by the Third Circuit. Finally, Mr. Slater has been directly involved in the early Olmesartan litigation in the New Jersey Superior Court, and has extensive familiarity with the legal and procedural issues, as well as the medical/scientific, and causation issues.

Mr. Slater would be in the position of Co-Lead Counsel and a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee.

Tara Sutton is a Partner and Chair of the Mass Tort Litigation group of Robins Kaplan LLP., a nationwide firm of 240 lawyers that has been involved in products liability and medical device litigation for its entire 74 year history. Ms. Sutton is an honors graduate of the University of Iowa Law School. She was selected as one of the Outstanding Women Lawyers by the National Law Journal, in its list of 75 of the most accomplished female attorneys working in the profession. She has previously been named a "Plaintiff Top 150 Women in Litigation" by Benchmark Litigation and a Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association "Member of the Year" honoree.

Ms. Sutton is also a member of the firm's Executive Board. Ms. Sutton has extensive trial and leadership experience in coordinated mass tort litigation. She was appointed by Judge Brian Martinotti to serve on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the consolidated Stryker Rejuvenate & ABGII hip implant litigation pending in Bergen County, New Jersey. Judge Martinotti further appointed Ms. Sutton to serve on the settlement negotiation team to develop a global settlement program for all cases pending in New Jersey state court and the federal MDL. On November 4, 2014, a settlement program valued at over \$1.4 billion was announced.

Ms. Sutton served on the Plaintiff's Executive Committee in *In re Chantix Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 2092 (N.D. Alabama). Ms. Sutton served as Chair of the Science and Expert Committee and successfully defeated each *Daubert* motion brought by Pfizer. See *In re Chantix (Varenicline) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 130144 (N.D. Ala. Aug. 21, 2012). Ms. Sutton was lead trial counsel in the first Chantix bellwether trial case, *Whitely v. Pfizer*, which settled three days prior to jury selection and resulted in the subsequent settlement of more than 2,600 cases. Ms. Sutton was Lead Counsel and Liaison counsel in the *In re Mirapex Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 1836 (D. Minn.). She was lead trial counsel in the first Mirapex bellwether trial that resulted in an \$8.3 million verdict (including more than \$7.8 million in punitive damages). She tried a second bellwether case that settled prior to closing arguments, leading to the settlement of all cases pending in the MDL. Additionally, Ms. Sutton served on the Science & Discovery committees in the *In re Vioxx Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 1657 (E.D. La.) and Law & Briefing committee in the *DePuy ASR Hip Implant Litigation*, MDL No. 2197 (N.D. Ohio).

She was a member of the trial team in the Minnesota Tobacco Litigation, which settled in 1998, after four months of trial, for wide-ranging injunctive relief and more than \$6.6 billion.

Ms. Sutton would be a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee.

Troy Rafferty is a partner in the law firm of Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, Rafferty and Proctor located in Pensacola, Florida. He specializes in litigating mass tort, pharmaceutical and major personal injury cases throughout the country. Levin, Papantonio has been a leader in mass tort litigation for decades. We have more than thirty (30) full time attorneys and over 120 staff members. The firm has participated in numerous Multi-District proceedings over the past three decades and has tried numerous mass tort and pharmaceutical cases.

Mr. Rafferty graduated magna cum laude from Valparaiso University School of law. He is board certified in civil trial law by The Florida Bar, AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell, and has been included in The Best Lawyers in America, and The Legal 500. He is a fellow in the International Society of Barristers. He currently serves as President of the Florida Justice Association. He is currently licensed to practice law before all Florida state courts, the United States District Courts for the Northern and Middle Districts of Florida, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

He has tried and litigated numerous pharmaceutical and mass tort cases. He has also been appointed to leadership positions in several MDL's. He has been appointed to serve as Co-Lead Counsel in the *In re: Gadolinium Based Contrast Action Litigation* (MDL No. 1909). He also served on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee and served as Co-Chair of the Plaintiffs' Discovery Committee in the *In re: Vioxx Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 1657). He has also been appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in the *In re:*

Yamaha Motor Corp. Rhino ATV Products Liability Litigation (MDL No. 2016), the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re: Zyprexa Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 1596), the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re: Fosamax (Alendronate Sodium) Products Liability Litigation (No.II)* (MDL No. 2243), the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re: Actos (Pioglitazone) Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 2299), and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In res Fresenius Granuflo/Naturalyte Dialysate Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 2428).

Mr. Rafferty would be a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee.

Peter H. Weinberger is the managing partner of the firm of Spangenberg Shibley and Liber, LLP located in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a graduate of Syracuse University and received his JD from Case Western Reserve University. He has been a member of the Ohio Bar since 1975 and is admitted to District courts in multiple jurisdictions. Mr. Weinberger is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers. He was named Cleveland Lawyer of the Year in Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice in 2012 and 2013. He was named one of the top 10 lawyers in Ohio in 2012 by "Super Lawyers" Magazine. He is a past president of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.

The Spangenberg Law firm has had a long history of litigation against the pharmaceutical industry beginning with cases involving the drug thalidomide in the 60's and 70's followed by cases involving the drugs Halcion, Albuterol, and many others. Mr. Weinberger specializes in product liability, medical malpractice, and catastrophic accidents.

Mr. Weinberger was liaison counsel in the *Gadolinium Contrast Dyes Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 1909 (N.D.Ohio), served on the executive committee, managed the fee committee, and served as trial counsel in two bellwether trials one of which settled the

evening before trial resulting in the settlement of over 67 cases. He worked with the court and special master extensively in the settlement efforts that helped resolve more than 600 cases.

Mr. Weinberger also served on the plaintiffs' steering committee in the *Teflon Product Liability Litigation* MDL No. 1733 (S.D.Iowa) and was on the trial team that presented the class certification issues at trial.

Mr. Weinberger would be a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee.

Plaintiffs' propose that the following be appointed as members of the **Plaintiffs'**

Steering Committee:

F. Catfish Abbott of the Abbott Law Group is a board certified civil trial attorney in the state of Florida with over 36 years of experience and over 170 jury trials for the plaintiff. He has tried to verdict numerous product liability cases against General Motors, Ford, Kawasaki and other product manufacturers. From 2012 through 2014, Mr. Abbott was the head of continuing legal education for the entire state of Florida on behalf of the Florida Justice Association. He has spoken at numerous seminars on every facet of litigation from jury selection to closing argument, and all parts in between. Mr. Abbott has been participating in focus groups and mock trials for 35 years and has worked with trial consultants across the country. For the past three years he has been participating in mass pharmaceutical torts and have headed up that division within my law firm. We are involved in 9 or 10 different types of pharmaceutical products or drugs. Our firm is representing somewhere between 120 and 130 individuals who have Benicar claims.

Esther Berezofsky is a partner with Williams Cuker Berezofsky in Cherry Hill New Jersey, and Philadelphia PA. She concentrates her practice on complex plaintiff's litigation in pharmaceutical and medical device products liability, environmental, and consumer litigation. Berezofsky has been in leadership roles in various pharmaceutical litigations including Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT), Diet Drug, Ortho Evra, Rezulin, PPA, DePuy, and been appointed liaison counsel in Mass Tort Courts in N.J. and PA in Diet Drug, Hormone Replacement therapy (HRT), and others. She is on the DePuy ASR MDL Plaintiffs Steering Committee (PSC), and is experienced in coordinating discovery, developing scientific and medical evidence, as well as devising innovative settlement and resolution strategies in complex multi-party matters. One such case, involving a children's cancer cluster in which she was lead counsel became the subject of the Pulitzer Prize winning book called *Toms River* authored by Dan Fagin. She was co- lead trial counsel in the New Jersey

Diet Drug medical monitoring class action trial. **In addition**, Berezofsky is currently the President of Public Justice, a national public interest law firm.

Stuart L. Goldenberg is the senior partner of Goldenberg Law in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has been lead counsel on more than 50 jury trials involving mass tort, product liability, medical malpractice, and personal injury cases. He has thirty years of mass tort and MDL experience, including Dalkon Shield, Copper-7 IUD, DES, Fen Phen, Vioxx, Bextra, Celebrex, Mirapex, Avandia, Propecia, Yaz, DePuy ASR, Zimmer Durom Cup, Pinnacle Hips, Stryker Rejuvenate Hips, Biomet Hips, Fosamax, SSRIs, Contaminated Steroids, Medtronic Infuse Bone Graft, GranuFlo, Testosterone and Talcum Powder. Currently he is co-lead counsel in more than 400 Medtronic Infuse Bone Graft cases in State and Federal Courts around the country including: New Jersey, California, Hawaii, Arizona, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Minnesota and Missouri.

Lexi Hazam is a partner at Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein with 12 years of experience in mass tort litigation, including in several MDLs. Ms. Hazam played a key role in MDL litigation on behalf of foreign hemophiliacs allegedly infected with HIV and/or HCV by American pharmaceutical products, developing epidemiological experts, spearheading foreign language discovery, and leading the administration of a global settlement of the claims of 1,600 plaintiffs spread across 15 countries. In MDL litigation over the Gol Airlines Flight 1907 aviation disaster, Ms. Hazam handled the depositions of foreign law experts, including the former Chief Justice of Brazil. Most recently, Ms. Hazam developed a key regulatory expert, a former head of the FDA, for the DePuy ASR defective hip MDL. Ms. Hazam has spoken on two recent panels regarding Benicar. Ms. Hazam has been listed in Best Lawyers for Mass Torts. Ms. Hazam's firm is among the nation's largest plaintiffs' firms, and in 2014 was named Law360's "Product Liability Group of the Year" for plaintiffs, as well as a U.S News "Law Firm of the Year" for mass torts/class actions.

Anthony Iripino graduated cum laude from Tulane Law School in 1996, and is the founding partner of the Iripino Law Firm – an eight attorney firm focusing on representation of plaintiffs. Mr. Iripino has devoted the vast majority of his legal career to working on multi-district litigation and class action cases. Mr. Iripino has served as class counsel for plaintiffs in more than forty class action, multi-district litigation, and mass joinder lawsuits, including: MDL No. 1657 – *In Re: Vioxx Products Liability Litigation* (Chairman of Privilege and Document Depository Committees); MDL No. 1789 – *In Re: Fosamax Products Liability Litigation* (PSC Member, Chairman of Administrative, Privilege and Bellwether Plaintiff Committees); MDL No. 2047 – *In Re: Chinese-Manufactured Drywall Products Liability Litigation* ("Of Counsel" to PSC, Trial Team and Appeal Team member, Chairman of Document Depository and Privilege/Confidentiality Committees, and member of Lead Deposition and Personal Jurisdiction Teams); and MDL 2179 – *In Re: Oil spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon"* (Member of Phase I & Phase II MDL Trial Teams, Chairman of Privilege and Confidentiality Workgroups, and Co-Chairman of Document Depository and ESI Workgroups). Mr. Iripino teaches litigation practice and ESI matters as an Adjunct

Professor and Guest Lecturer at Tulane Law School. He is an active member of the Sedona Conference, and has presented CLEs on MDLs, clinical trials and ESI matters.

Jeffrey M. Kuntz is a partner in the Kansas City, Mo. Firm of Wagstaff and Cartmell. He is currently the head of the Expert Committee and Bellwether Trial Committee in the *In Re: Ethicon, Inc., Pelvic Repair System Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 2327). He has assisted in the first three pelvic mesh cases to be tried in front of a jury against Ethicon. Jeff was co-lead trial counsel in the first Bellwether Sling case tried to a verdict in the *Pelvic Repair System Products Liability Litigation*. He is a member of the Plaintiff's Steering Committee and was co-lead counsel in the first Bellwether case in the multidistrict litigation, *In Re: Kugel Mesh Hernia Patch Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 1842) to be tried to a verdict. Jeff was also head of the Expert Committee in the Kugel MDL. He is also currently a member of the Plaintiff's Steering Committee in the Judicial Council Coordinated Proceedings (JCCP) 4615 *In Re: Infusion Pump Cases*. Jeff has been on numerous other committees for MDL proceedings related to drug and medical devices and has presented at numerous conferences on drug and device litigation.

Mallory Mangold is an attorney with the law firm of Taylor Martino, P.C. in Mobile, Alabama. Her practice is devoted to mass tort litigation involving dangerous drugs and medical devices. Ms. Mangold is currently representing hundreds of women in the Transvaginal Mesh litigation. She has recently represented plaintiffs in the Countrywide Home Loan class action lawsuit, Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II Hip MDL 2441, Wright Conserve MDL 2329, Deepwater Horizon oil spill MDL 2179, In Re: Kugel Mesh Hernia Repair Patch Litigation MDL 07-1842-ML, and pelvic repair system litigation, including American Medical Systems MDL 2325, Ethicon MDL 2327, Covidien MDL 2187, Coloplast MDL 2387, Bard MDL 2187, Neomedic MDL 2511 and Boston Scientific MDL 2326. Ms. Mangold currently serves on the Plaintiff's Steering Committee for the Boston Scientific, Massachusetts State Court Consolidation involving lawsuits against the manufacturers of transvaginal mesh implants. With regards to Benicar, Ms. Mangold has filed a case in the Northern District of Alabama and filed an Interested Party Response with the JPML in support of the formation of this MDL.

Victoria J. Maniatis is a partner at Sanders Phillips Grossman, LLP working in their Manhattan office. After graduating high school in NJ, Ms. Maniatis earned her BA from Penn State (1990) and her JD from Hofstra (1993). Her plaintiffs' mass tort focus began in 1998 after 5 years insurance defense practice in New Jersey. She's licensed in NJ and NY with many *Pro Hac Vice* admissions. Vicki has worked on behalf of numerous Plaintiffs' Steering Committees in both state and federal coordinated proceedings over the last 18 years on Pharmaceutical, medical device and aviation matters including; Baycol, Avandia, Ortho Evra, Yaz, Accutane, Bausch & Lomb ReNu with MoistureLoc, Swiss Air, TWA 800, KAL (Guam). Ms. Maniatis currently holds appointments on the TVM MDL (DWV) and Fosamax MDL PSC (DNJ), and serves as Lead Counsel in the Propecia New Jersey Coordinated litigation in Middlesex County. Over the years on these litigations Ms. Maniatis

has served on Marketing, science and experts, discovery and bellwether and trial committees taking and defending case specific and general depositions and drafting a variety of pleadings including the Avandia Plaintiffs Fact Sheet.

Mark M. O'Mara of O'Mara Law group practices has offices in Orlando, Florida. Although new to the area of mass torts, having only been involved for the past 2 years, Mr. O'Mara has over 32 years of trial experience at the state and federal court levels, and is board certified in both Family Trial law and Criminal Trial Law, a double certification accomplished by very few lawyers nationwide. He has have handled many complex cases and extended trials in both areas and venues as solo and lead counsel. He lectures nationwide on various facets of trial preparation and practice, from theme and theory determination through jury selection to closing argument, and has also spoken specific to the Xarelto and Benicar matters. He has a particular interest in the process of selecting and trying the Bellwether cases for this MDL, along with discovery gathering and review appropriate for those decisions.

Roger W. Orlando is founding partner of The Orlando Firm, P.C. with offices in Atlanta, Georgia and Morristown, New Jersey. Educational Background: Emory University School of Law, *Juris Doctor*, 1987; Bar admissions: New Jersey, 1988; Georgia 1989; District of Columbia; USDC, District of NJ; USDC, Northern District of Illinois; USDC, Middle and Northern Districts of Georgia; and USDC Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. Multi-District Litigation Experience: Member PSC, MDL no. 2545, *In re:* Testosterone Replacement Therapy Products Liability Litigation; Member PSC, MDL No. 2331, *In re:* Propecia (Finasteride) Product Liability Litigation; Lead Counsel, MDL No. 2087, *In re:* Hydroxycut Marketing and Sales Practice Litigation; and Member, PEC, MDL No. 1845, *In re:* ConAgra Peanut Butter Products Liability Litigation; Discovery Committee, MDL No. 1431, *In re:* Baycol Products Liability Litigation; and Discovery Committee, MDL No. 1355, *In re:* Propulcid Products Liability Litigation, among others.

Behram Parekh has represented both individuals and institutions in complex litigation matters. Mr. Parekh has been appointed as lead or co-lead counsel in numerous cases in the in the litigation of consumer fraud, false and misleading advertising, unfair competition, drug liability, securities litigation, and mass tort cases. Mr. Parekh has litigated plaintiff's class action, complex litigation, and mass tort claims for his entire legal careers and has been appointed as lead counsel or a member of a lead counsel committee in numerous cases, including most recently as co-lead counsel in the Apple iPhone4 Litigation, MDL-2188, and as sole lead counsel in the POM Wonderful LLC Litigation, MDL-2199, and the *In re* Oreck Corp. Halo Vacuum and Air Purifiers Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation, MDL-2317. Mr. Parekh's firm, Kirtland & Packard LLP has a full-fledged trial and appellate practice, with countless verdicts and over 180 published appellate opinions to its credit since the firm's founding in 1932. The Firm also has extensive experience in complex

multi-party and multi-district litigation, and has litigated numerous MDL proceedings, beginning with MDL-13 in 1967.

Gale Pearson is a partner in the firm of Pearson, Randall, and Schumacher, PA, of Minneapolis, Minn. She is admitted to practice law in the State of Minnesota (1994), Eighth Circuit (1995), Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals (1996), Seventh Circuit (2011), Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals (2014), and the United States Supreme Court (2002). She has served on several State consolidated actions and Federal MDL's over the past twenty years, including Phen-fen, Baycol, PPA, Stryker, Guidant, and Medtronic. She has served on the discovery, deposition, privilege log, liaison, bellwether and science committees. She has been appointed by Federal Court Judges Donovan Frank and James Rosenbaum to serve on common benefit and injury allocation committees for the Guidant and Medtronic MDL litigation. Prior to attending law school, she was a Board Certified Clinical Laboratory Scientist a Laboratory Medical Technologist, certified by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, and worked in the clinical lab.

Paul Rheingold of Rheingold, Valet and Rheingold PCI has been on many mass tort steering committees over the years, federal and state. Recently he was co-lead counsel in the NuvaRing MDL 1964 (and later on the PSC). He was on the PSC of the Ephedra in S.D.N.Y., with Judge Jed Rakoff. He is the author of the two-volume Thomson Reuters treatise, *Litigating Mass Tort Cases*, updated annually. He was consulted on the torts portion of MCL 4th, which cites in various places to my book. With regard to Benicar, he was the first lawyer to work on these cases and filed early ones in New Jersey.

Joel Robert Rhine of Rhine Law Firm PC has decades of experience in complex litigation matters, including mass torts and products liability. After graduating from Wake Forest Law School in 1988, where he received the Wake Forest Law Review award for the second of his two published Notes, Mr. Rhine, associated with Hunton & Williams, one of the largest and most prestigious law firms in the country. After leaving Hunton & Williams, Mr. Rhine began working in the mass tort arena, when he filed the first lawsuit in what became the multi-decade, multi-state synthetic stucco (EIFS) litigation, where he represented thousands of homeowners against a variety of constructions participants and manufacturers. Mr. Rhine obtained the nation's first verdict against an EIFS manufacturer. This multimillion dollar verdict was a catalyst for a national EIFS settlement. Mr. Rhine currently serves as co-counsel and co-lead counsel in approximately 700 Chinese Drywall cases pending in the Eastern District of Louisiana, is co-lead counsel in consumer class actions against Louisiana Pacific. He is also involved in the Pella 2 MDL and is preparing for a prominent role in the upcoming bellwether trials. He has significant roles in the Rust-Oleum MDL, will be active in Lumber Liquidators litigation, Anthem data breach litigation, Premara Blue Cross and Blue Shield litigation, Intuit TurboTax litigation, and more. Simply put, Mr Rhine has been counsel, lead counsel, or a member of the Plaintiff Steering Committee in dozens of class actions and national mass tort cases. As a frequently requested speaker on legal topics for trial lawyers and judges, Mr. Rhine speaks at national and state continuing education seminars on topics such as trial skills, mass torts and class

actions (including ethics in Multi-District Litigation and Class Actions) and various specific litigation issues. Mr. Rhine is and has been recognized repeatedly by *Business North Carolina's* Legal Elite, Super Lawyers (presently listed as one of the Top 100 North Carolina Lawyers), Best Lawyers, National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers, has enjoyed an AV rating by Martindale Hubbell since 2002, and much more.

Peter Snowdon is an attorney with Johnson Becker, PLLC who has practiced law for over eight years. Mr. Snowdon primarily handles products liability cases, with a focus on medical device and pharmaceutical litigation. Since joining Johnson Becker, Mr. Snowdon has worked on several MDL teams including *In re: Zimmer Nexgen Knee Implant Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 2272) and *In re: Incretin Mimetics Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 2452). Specifically, in the *Zimmer Nexgen Knee Implant* MDL, Mr. Snowdon was intrinsically involved with the *Daubert* briefing and oral argument process. Similarly, he worked with the leadership in the *In re: Incretin* MDL to develop preemption and general causation expert reports. In addition, Mr. Snowdon participated in the negotiation of the Deposition Protocol and other preliminary Case Management Orders in the *In re: Testosterone Replacement Therapy Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 2545). Mr. Snowdon was an Economics major at the University of Virginia and earned his law degree from the University of Denver. He is licensed to practice law in Minnesota and Colorado.

George Williamson is an attorney with the firm of Farr, Farr, Emerich, Hackett, Carr & Holmes, P.A. in Punta Gorda, Florida. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Miami School of Law in 2010 and is licensed to practice in all Florida state courts, the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida, and has been granted pro hac vice admissions in numerous federal courts around the country. Mr. Williamson's practice is devoted to mass tort litigation and complex civil disputes in both state and federal courts. He has recently represented plaintiffs in the Biomet M2A Magnum MDL 2391, Wright Conserve MDL 2329, Deepwater Horizon oil spill MDL 2179, Levaquin MDL 1943, pelvic repair system litigation, including Ethicon MDL 2327, Coloplast MDL 2387, Bard MDL 2187, and Boston Scientific MDL 2326. He has also represented plaintiffs injured by the da Vinci robotic surgical system as well as the hormone replacement therapy drug Prempro. With regard to the Benicar litigation, Mr. Williamson has filed cases in the Southern District of Florida and filed an Interested Party Response with the JPML in support of the formation of this MDL.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Richard M. Golomb

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PLAINTIFFS' LIAISON COUNSEL

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was filed electronically on May 4, 2015. Notice of this filing will be sent to all parties by operation of the Court's electronic filing system. Parties may access this filing through the Court's system.

s/Richard Golomb
RICHARD M. GOLOMB
PLAINTIFFS' LIAISON COUNSEL