

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**In Re: TAXOTERE (DOCETAXEL)
PRODUCTS LIABILITY
LITIGATION**

**MDL NO. 2740
SECTION "N" (5)**

**THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:
ALL CASES**

PRETRIAL ORDER NO. 15

(Deadlines for Master and Short Form Complaint, Motions to Dismiss and Master Answer)

This Order reflects the agreement to date between the parties with respect to case management issues governing all proceedings in this matter. Several case management issues remain under discussion between the parties. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that:

- A. Plaintiffs, through the PSC, shall file a Master Complaint on or before March 31, 2017;
- B. Plaintiffs, through the PSC, shall submit a proposed Pretrial Order with an attached exemplar Short Form Complaint on or before March 31, 2017;
- C. Plaintiffs, through their individual counsel, shall abide by the following instructions regarding filing of Short Form Complaints:
 - a. For all cases docketed in the MDL prior to April 1, 2017, a Short Form Complaint may be filed as an amended complaint¹ in the plaintiff's individual case docket on or before May 31, 2017 (if the plaintiff does not file a Short Form Complaint, adopting allegations in the Master Complaint, that plaintiff's original Complaint shall remain the operative Complaint in that case); and
 - b. For all cases filed in or transferred to the MDL from April 1, 2017 forward, the Master Complaint shall apply and Plaintiffs shall file a Short Form Complaint; for such cases

¹ As a logistical matter, short form/amended complaints should be filed in the applicable member case. Filing attorney should use the event, "Taxotere Amended Complaint", located under the Service of Process Category. If further direction is needed, please contact the Court at (504) 589-7715.

filed directly in the MDL in accordance with Pretrial Order No. 5 (R. Doc. 131), a Short Form Complaint shall be filed in lieu of a long format original complaint;

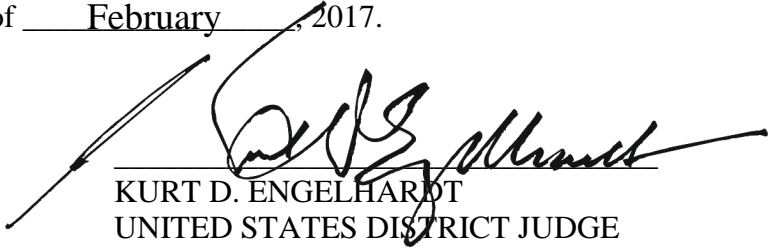
- D. Defendants shall file all Motions to Dismiss directed to the Master Complaint and regarding personal jurisdiction within 30 days after filing of the Master Complaint;²
- E. Defendants shall file all other Rule 12 Motions to Dismiss directed to the Master Complaint within 60 days after filing of the Master Complaint;
- F. Plaintiffs, through the PSC, shall file any Opposition Memoranda to the Defendants' Motions to Dismiss directed to the Master Complaint and regarding personal jurisdiction on or before August 31, 2017;
- G. Plaintiffs, through the PSC, shall file any Opposition Memoranda to all other Rule 12 Motions to Dismiss directed to the Master Complaint filed by Defendants within 60 days after filing of the Motions to Dismiss; and
- H. Each Defendant shall file a Master Answer on or before 60 days following the filing of the Master Complaint or within 30 days after the Undersigned's ruling on all Motions to Dismiss, whichever is later.
- I. A Defendant's Master Answer is not intended to and shall not waive any applicable defenses available to any Defendant, including any objections to service, jurisdiction or venue, and any defenses to any state law claims not otherwise set forth in the Master Complaint, and Defendants may respond to any such individual complaint, including Short Form Complaints, by way of motions permissible under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Defendants may also file counterclaims, cross-claims, and/or third-party complaints, pursuant to Rules 13 and 14 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, in connection with any particular individual action, with such filing to be made within 60 days of transfer of the action to the MDL or, for those actions currently pending in the MDL, within sixty (60) days of the filing of the Master Answer, unless good cause is shown for filing at a later date.
- J. Because each Defendant shall be deemed to have answered all cases pending in, filed in, or subsequently transferred to the MDL upon filing of a Master Answer, cases may only be voluntarily dismissed against such Defendant by order of the Court pursuant to Federal

² The parties have discussed whether discovery related to personal jurisdiction will be necessary and have agreed to defer setting a deadline for such discovery at this time. The PSC and defendants shall meet and confer in an attempt to reach a consensus regarding this issue if defendants file any motion challenging personal jurisdiction.

Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 41 (a)(2) or a stipulation pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 41(a)(1)(ii), except that a complaint filed directly in the MDL may be voluntarily dismissed upon notice by Plaintiff within 20 days of the filing of the complaint.

- K. Neither the filing of a Master Answer, nor the filing of a Notice of Appearance or ECF registration in an action, nor the appearance at a status conference shall constitute a waiver of any defense of lack of personal jurisdiction.

New Orleans, Louisiana this 9th day of February, 2017.



KURT D. ENGELHART
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE