

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

In re: FLUOROQUINOLONE PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL No. 15-2642 (JRT)

This Document Relates to All Actions

**PRETRIAL ORDER NO. 4 ON
PLAINTIFFS' LEADERSHIP**

The Court having carefully reviewed the submissions of the parties hereby **ORDERS** that the attorneys designated herein shall serve as Plaintiffs' co-lead counsel, executive committee, steering committee, and liaison counsel (collectively, the "Plaintiffs' Leadership") and shall have the responsibilities described below.

A. Appointment of Plaintiffs' Leadership

1. Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel. The Court appoints the following two attorneys to serve as Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel:

Bill Robins III
HEARD ROBINS CLOUD LLP
808 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 450
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Phone: (310) 929-4200
Fax: (310) 566-5900
Email: robins@heardrobins.com

Russell W. Budd
BARON & BUDD, P.C.
3102 Oak Lane Ave., Suite 1100
Dallas, TX 75219
Phone: (214) 521-2605
Fax: (214) 520-1191
Email: rbudd@baronbudd.com

2. Plaintiffs' Executive Committee. The Court appoints the following five attorneys to serve together as the members of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee (the "PEC"):

Bill Robins III
HEARD ROBINS CLOUD LLP
808 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 450
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Phone: (310) 929-4200
Fax: (310) 566-5900
Email: robins@heardrobins.com

Russell W. Budd
BARON & BUDD, P.C.
3102 Oak Lane Ave., Suite 1100
Dallas, TX 75219
Phone: (214) 521-2605
Fax: (214) 520-1191
Email: rbudd@baronbudd.com

Vance R. Andrus
ANDRUS WAGSTAFF, P.C.
7171 W. Alaska Dr.
Lakewood, CO 80226
Phone: (720) 255-7623
Fax: (303) 376-6361
Email: vance.andrus@andruswagstaff.com

R. Jason Richards
AYLSTOCK, WITKIN, KREIS &
OVERHOLTZ, PLLC
17 East Main Street, Suite 200
Pensacola, FL 32502
Phone: (850) 202-1010
Fax: (850) 916-7449
Email: jrichards@awkolaw.com

Yvonne M. Flaherty
LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.
100 Washington Avenue S, Suite 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: (612) 339-6900
Fax: (612) 339-0981
Email: ymflaherty@locklaw.com

3. *Plaintiffs' Steering Committee.* The Court appoints the following ten attorneys together with Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel and the PEC to serve as the members of the Plaintiffs'

Steering Committee (the "PSC"):

Ahmed S. Diab
GOMEZ TRIAL LAWYERS
655 W. Broadway, Suite 1700
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: (619) 237-3490
Fax: (619) 237-3496
Email: adiab@gomeztrialattorneys.com

Andrea S. Hirsch
HERMAN GEREL, LLP
230 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 2260
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: (404) 880-9500
Fax: (404) 880-9605
Email: ahirsch@hermangerel.com

Thomas Sims
BARON & BUDD, P.C.
3102 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 1100
Dallas, TX 75219
Phone: (214) 521-3605
Fax: (214) 520-1181
Email: tsims@baronbudd.com

Tad Thomas
THOMAS LAW OFFICES, PLLC
9418 Norton Commons Blvd., Suite 200
Louisville, KY 40059
Phone: (502) 688-5050
Fax: (502) 785-7257
Email: tad@thomaslawoffices.com

Erik Walker
HISSEY KIENTZ, L.L.P.
9442 N. Cap. TX Hwy, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78759
Phone: (512) 320-9100
Fax: (512) 320-9101

Lauren A. Welling
SANDERS PHILLIPS GROSSMAN, LLC
2860 Michelle Drive, Suite 220
Irvine, CA 92606
Phone: (877) 480-9142
Fax: (213) 330-0298

Email: ewalker@hkllp.com

Email: lwelling@thesandersfirm.com

Katie E. Griffin
SILL LAW GROUP
14005 N. Eastern Ave.
Edmond, KY 73013
Phone: (405) 509-6300
Fax: (405) 509-6268
Email: katie@sill-law.com

Olga Viner
HEARD ROBINS CLOUD LLP
808 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 450
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Phone: (310) 929-4200
Fax: (310) 566-5900
Email: oviner@heardrobins.com

David J. Wool
ANDRUS WAGSTAFF, P.C.
7171 W. Alaska Dr.
Lakewood, CO 80226
Phone: (720) 255-7623
Fax: (303) 376-6361
Email: david.wool@andruswagstaff.com

Christopher Nidel
NIDEL LAW, PLLC
1615 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 558-2030
Fax: (888) 880-4194
Email: chris@nidellaw.com

4. *Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel.* The Court appoints the following attorney to serve as Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel:

Yvonne M. Flaherty
LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.
100 Washington Avenue S, Suite 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Phone: (612) 339-6900
Fax: (612) 339-0981
Email: ymflaherty@locklaw.com

B. Responsibilities of Plaintiffs' Leadership

1. *Responsibilities of Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel.* In consultation with the PEC, Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel shall be generally responsible for coordinating the activities of Plaintiffs in conducting this litigation toward final resolution. Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel shall take the lead in litigating these matters on behalf of all Plaintiffs, meaning that they shall play the lead role in making strategic, tactical, and procedural decisions on behalf of the Plaintiffs' counsel and pro se Plaintiffs. Of course, the Court recognizes that all Plaintiffs' counsel and all Plaintiffs retain the right to choose to act in their own best interest in these proceedings, but the

large number of attorneys and Plaintiffs requires a substantial amount of coordination of litigation efforts. To that end, Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel – either personally or by coordinating the efforts of others – shall perform the following duties, among others:

Discovery

- a. Initiate, coordinate and conduct all generic pretrial discovery on behalf of all Plaintiffs who file civil actions in this Court or that are transferred to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407 and that are consolidated with this multidistrict litigation;
- b. Develop and propose to the Court schedules for the conduct and completion of all discovery on behalf of all Plaintiffs;
- c. Initiate, coordinate, and cause to be issued in the name of all Plaintiffs, the necessary discovery requests, motions, and subpoenas pertaining to any witness and documents needed to properly prepare for the pretrial of relevant issues found in the pleadings of this litigation (similar requests, notices, subpoenas may be caused to be issued by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel upon written request by an individual attorney in order to assist him or her in preparation of the pretrial stages of his or her client's particular claims);
- d. Identify witnesses to be noticed for deposition, schedule witness depositions, and determine the lead examiner(s) for each noticed deposition;
- e. Conduct all discovery in a coordinated and consolidated manner on behalf of and for the benefit of all Plaintiffs;

Master Pleadings, Motion Practice and Hearings

- f. Submit Master Pleadings, and any motions presented to the Court on behalf of all Plaintiffs as well as oppose, as appropriate, any motions submitted by the Defendants or third parties;
- g. Examine or designate other counsel to examine witnesses and introduce evidence at hearings on behalf of Plaintiffs;
- h. Act or designate other counsel to act as spokesperson(s) for Plaintiffs at pretrial proceedings and in response to any inquiries by the Court;

Contact with Defense Counsel

- i. Initiate, coordinate and conduct the requisite meet and confers with Defendants, confer with Defendants regarding procedural matters, and negotiate and enter into stipulations and case management orders with Defendants regarding this litigation;
- j. Explore or designate other counsel to explore, develop, and pursue settlement options with Defendants on behalf of Plaintiffs;

Oversight of Plaintiffs' Counsel

- k. Call meetings of Plaintiffs' counsel for any appropriate purpose;
- l. Assign litigation-related tasks to Plaintiffs' counsel who communicate their willingness to work for the common benefit of all Plaintiffs, taking into consideration the particular strengths and weaknesses of counsel requesting such assignments;
- m. Monitor the activities of the PEC, PSC and other co-counsel to ensure that schedules are met and unnecessary expenditures of time and funds are avoided;

Committee Formation

- n. Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel shall have the power to form committees and appoint committee chairs for specific litigation tasks, including but not limited to the following: (i) Discovery; (ii) Law and Briefing; (iii) Science/Experts; (iv) Trial; and (v) others as the need may arise;

Trial Preparation

- o. Coordinate trial team(s)'s selection, management and presentation of any "bellwether" and/or "test" case trial(s); and

Other

- p. Perform such other duties as may be incidental to proper coordination of Plaintiffs' activities or authorized by further order of the Court.

2. *Communications with the Court.* All communications from Plaintiffs with the Court should be through Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel or Liaison Counsel. If circumstances require direct correspondence with the Court by an individual counsel, copies of any said communications shall simultaneously be served upon both Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel and Liaison Counsel by email.

3. *Responsibilities of Plaintiffs' Executive Committee.* The PEC shall from time to time consult with Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, the PSC and Liaison Counsel in coordinating the Plaintiffs' pretrial activities and in planning for trial.

4. *Responsibilities of Plaintiffs' Steering Committee.* The members of the PSC shall consult with Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, the PEC and Liaison Counsel in coordinating the Plaintiffs' pretrial activities and in planning for trial. The PSC shall be authorized to perform work only based upon assignments received from Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel (or their designees), or a committee chairperson appointed by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel.

5. *Responsibilities of Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel.* Plaintiffs' liaison counsel shall:

- a. Receive and, as appropriate, distribute to co-counsel orders from the Court and documents from opposing parties and counsel;
- b. Coordinate service and filings for Plaintiffs;
- c. Maintain and distribute to co-counsel and to Defendants' Liaison Counsel an up-to-date service list;
- d. Maintain and make available to all Plaintiffs' counsel of record at reasonable hours a complete file of all documents served by or upon each party (except such documents as may be available at a document depository); and
- e. Carry out such other duties as the Court may Order.

6. *Common Benefit Time and Expenses.* Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel shall prepare and submit to the Court a proposal for the authorization by Co-Lead Counsel and the PEC of common benefit time and expenses and the standards and procedures to be used by any counsel seeking fees and expenses in this case.

7. *Privileges Preserved.* The Court recognizes that cooperation by and among Plaintiffs' counsel is essential for the orderly and expeditious resolution of this litigation. The communication of information among and between Plaintiffs' counsel shall not be deemed a waiver of any privilege or protection, including without limitation the attorney-client privilege and/or the work product doctrine, if the privilege or protection is otherwise applicable. The cooperative efforts contemplated above shall in no way be used against any Plaintiff by any Defendant. Nothing contained in this provision shall be construed to limit the rights of any party or counsel to assert the attorney-client privilege or attorney work product doctrine.

DATED: March 17, 2016
at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

s/John R. Tunheim
JOHN R. TUNHEIM
Chief Judge
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE