

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

**IN RE: HAIR RELAXER MARKETING  
SALES PRACTICES AND PRODUCTS  
LIABILITY LITIGATION**

Case No. 23 C 818

MDL No. 3060

Judge Mary M. Rowland

## **ORDER APPOINTING PLAINTIFFS’ LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

## **I. Purpose and Responsibilities of the Leadership Development Committee**

The Leadership Development Committee (“LDC”) is designed to provide mentorship to those individuals interested in the furtherance of their understanding of and involvement in MDL practice, with particular interest in this litigation. LDC members should become familiar with the Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth, as well as the Local Rules for the Northern District of Illinois. All LDC members shall work with Plaintiffs’ Leadership to facilitate the “just, speedy, and inexpensive determination” of this matter. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 1.

LDC members shall be assigned projects by Plaintiffs' Leadership in the furtherance of this litigation that may constitute common benefit work. Any time for any common benefit work, as well as any common benefit expenses incurred, shall be maintained and submitted timely in accordance with the Court's forthcoming guidelines. All common benefit reimbursement and compensation shall be subject to the Court's final approval.

It shall be the responsibility of the LDC Co-Leads to provide mentorship and oversight to the LDC members such that each is obtaining the full benefit of the LDC experience. The LDC

Co-Leads shall assist each LDC member in obtaining common benefit work during the court of the appointment. The Court appoints the following as co-chairs of the LDC:

- LaRuby May                      May Jung
- Melanie Muhlstock              Parker Waichman
- Carmen Scott                      Motley Rice

**Assessments and Appointment Duration**

Each appointment as an LDC Co-Chair or an LDC member is for a period of two years. It is the intent of Plaintiffs' Leadership to appoint a new slate of LDC members upon the expiration of each group's term. However, any work any LDC member is conducting at the time of the term expiration may continue, subject to the approval of the MDL Plaintiffs' Co-Lead assigning the work.

Like each PSC appointment, LDC designations are of a personal nature and the Court looks to these counsel to personally perform the designated functions. Should any LDC member be unable to perform in the role at any time, the Court reserves the right to replace counsel.

Each LDC member has affirmed the ability and willingness to advance funds necessary for the litigation. The MDL Plaintiffs' Co-Leads will determine the amount required of LDC members, and failure to pay such assessment shall constitute good cause for removal from the LDC.

**Appointed Members of the MDL 3060 LDC**

To ensure an open and wide-reaching application process, the PSC notified each counsel with a filed case in the *In re: Hair Relaxer Marketing Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation* matter before this Court of the procedure by which applications for the LDC could be submitted to a dedicated LDC email by the deadline of 10:00 a.m. Eastern on March 20, 2023. The criteria for LDC selection followed closely the Court's MDL Case Management Order No. 1 (ECF

No. 3), in requiring that each applicant have (a) willingness and availability to commit to a time-consuming project; (b) ability to work cooperatively with others; (c) professional experience in this type of litigation; and (d) access to sufficient resources to advance the litigation in a timely manner.

Based upon the criteria set forth in the notification to applicants, a review of Declarations submitted by each applicant, and the virtual interviews by Plaintiffs' Leadership, the following attorneys are appointed to the LDC:

- Chelsie Green                      Levin Papantonio Rafferty
- Vanessa Gross                      Wagstaff & Cartmell
- Eli Hare                              DiCello Levitt
- Armond Jackson                      Jackson Law P.C.
- Natalie Jackson                      Ben Crump Law
- Najah Jacobs                      Berger Montague
- Katherine Kiziah                      Searcy Denney PA
- Aigner Kolom                      Beasley Allen
- Temitope Leyimu                      Motley Rice
- Patrick Lyons                      Ashcraft & Gerel
- Sarah Raisch                      Romanucci & Blandin
- Molly Wells                      Wallace Miller

**Appointment of Leadership Development Sub-Committee**

During the LDC application and interview process, Plaintiffs' Leadership recognized an appreciable number of junior lawyer applicants who, while likely several steps away from leading

an MDL and thus not suited for the LDC, could still benefit from a structured mentorship setting within this MDL. Those attorneys shall be appointed to a Court commissioned second committee – the LDC Sub-Committee – that will be Chaired by the above-named LDC Co-Chairs and who will provide detailed guidance and instruction on the mechanics of the MDL process. The following counsel are hereby appointed to the LDC Sub-Committee:

- Cameron Bell                      Oliver Law Group
- Starr Culpepper                  Culpepper Law
- Chandler Duncan                Environmental Litigation Group
- Megan Foggia                    Parker Waichman
- Ja'Mecia Laws                  Schlichter Bogard & Denton
- LaCrisha McAllister            Boiling Law Firm
- Hailey Watts                    Watts Guerra

Members of this committee will not be subject to a PSC assessment but shall otherwise have the same responsibilities as LDC members as articulated in this Order.

E N T E R:

Dated: April 6, 2023



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MARY M. ROWLAND  
United States District Judge