

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
AT CHARLESTON**

**IN RE: AMERICAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.,
PELVIC REPAIR SYSTEM
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

MDL NO. 2325

**THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO
CIVIL ACTION NO.:**

Hellerstein, et al. v. American Medical Systems, Inc., et al. 2:17-cv-03345

**PRETRIAL ORDER # 245
(Initial Order Regarding Severance of Actions)**

The complaint filed in the above-referenced action joined multiple plaintiffs whose only apparent connection with one another is that they allege they were implanted with an American Medical Systems, Inc. (“AMS”) pelvic mesh product and possibly others. I **FIND** that multiple plaintiff complaints, except those complaints in which only one individual alleges using an AMS product but another derivative plaintiff is named as well (e.g. cases in which a spouse is asserting only a loss of consortium claim), should be severed. Accordingly, to resolve any misjoinder concerns and to facilitate the efficient administration of these actions, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. Except for the first named plaintiff (and derivative plaintiff(s) claiming under her, if any) listed in Exhibit A, attached hereto, **and** any plaintiff(s) who objects to severance (see paragraph 7), the remaining plaintiffs in the aforementioned case shall be dismissed without prejudice on or around **July 14, 2017**.

2. Within thirty (30) days after the entry of this Pretrial Order (“PTO”), each individual plaintiff dismissed pursuant to paragraph 1 of this PTO who did not object to severance and any derivative plaintiff claiming under her, may file an individual severed complaint to continue the prosecution of the claims they alleged in the dismissed civil action. Each such plaintiff may choose to file in this court, a Short Form Complaint in the form available on the court’s website. **Each plaintiff is reminded of her obligation to comply with Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.**

3. Any Short Form Complaint filed by a severed plaintiff must be accompanied by the appropriate filing fee, and assigned a separate civil action number determined by the Clerk.

4. Any severed plaintiff who wishes to name as defendants parties who are not listed in the current Master Long Form Complaint as defendants must file an individual complaint in the District Court where such action properly can be filed and await transfer by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (the “Panel”).

5. Any re-filed action (whether filed in another district or in the Southern District of West Virginia) shall refer to the dismissed civil action number. This information must be added to the Short Form Complaint immediately under the Civil Action Number or to the style of the long form complaint immediately under the Civil Action Number assigned by the Clerk in the district where the action is filed. (*See Exhibit B, attached hereto.*)

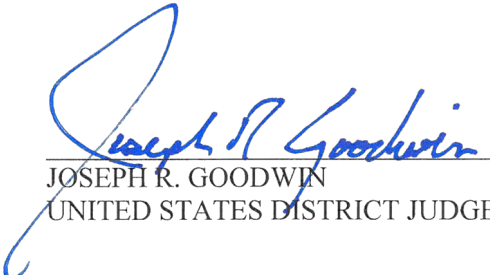
6. Any individual Complaint filed within the time provided by this PTO will be deemed to have been filed on and relate back to the original filing date of the applicable multi-plaintiff civil action. Any statute of limitations defense that existed as of the filing dates of the original multi-plaintiff complaints shall be preserved.

7. Any plaintiff(s) who objects to this PTO must do so within ten (10) days of entry of this PTO or by **July 10, 2017**. Such plaintiff should file her objections in the Southern District of West Virginia in the original multi-plaintiff case, with any objection not to exceed two (2) pages. Any plaintiff(s) who objects shall not be severed until such objection is resolved by the court.

8. The court **DIRECTS** the Clerk to place a copy of this PTO in each re-filed action filed pursuant to this PTO that is directly filed in the Southern District and in each re-filed action filed pursuant to this PTO that is transferred by the Panel on the date the case is opened in the Southern District.

The court **DIRECTS** the Clerk to file a copy of this order in 2:12-md-02325 and in member case **2:17-cv-03345** and it shall apply to each member related case previously transferred to, removed to, or filed in this district, which includes counsel in all member cases up to and including civil action number 2:17-cv-03345. In cases subsequently filed in this district, a copy of the most recent pretrial order will be provided by the Clerk to counsel appearing in each new action at the time of filing of the complaint. In cases subsequently removed or transferred to this court, a copy of the most recent pretrial order will be provided by the clerk to counsel appearing in each new action upon removal or transfer. It shall be the responsibility of the parties to review and abide by all pretrial orders previously entered by the court. The orders may be accessed through the CM/ECF system or the court's website at www.wvsd.uscourts.gov.

ENTER: June 26, 2017



JOSEPH R. GOODWIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

MDL 2325 - EXHIBIT A

Plaintiffs	Originating District	Originating Case No.	SDWV – MDL Member Case No.
Karen Hellerstein Erica Parker Sonia Ramirez Sandra Curl Kimberly Ward Beatrice Quezada Pauline J. Antonucci Gentsy Roberson Melinda Aposhian Linda Flores Ana Crespo Cherill McCalla Frances Yournett Patricia A. Dalrymple Krista Murray Natalie Wakefield Marilu Diaz Arlene Figueroa Gloria Ann Henry Donna M. Lupinski Vida Benefield Clare Morton Jean B. Couch Hilda Lopez Lori D. Volle Diane Perkins Anna M. Groth Kimberly K. Durst Beverly Sedillo Donna Webb Debbie Garland Beatric Chatham Reta A. Jones Roberta Pfeifer Wilma Dandridge Tammy Drone Shelah C. Smith Alice Miller Angela Schwartz Lisa D. Powell Belinda Simon Heather Balias Elvia Benavidez	California Central	2:17-cv-04129	2:17-cv-03345

Plaintiffs	Originating District	Originating Case No.	SDWV – MDL Member Case No.
Olga Douros Connie Hofer Susan Baron Teresa Cash Pamela Short Tari Eaglen Barbara Reid Cynthia Harrison Kristina Graham Loretta Berrios Sharon Monosmith Dawn Brown Brenda Thompson Ella Bourg Leslie Anderson Toni Hostuttler Wilma Hill Betty Seabolt Laura Bressler Whitehurst Betty Joe Streeter Judy Rogers Diane Martin Paula Peltonovich Lorraine Barry Leslie Morris Ramona Kilpatrick Gloria E. Schuetts Bertha Gossett Valerie A. Branche April Weinert Rochelle Scott Linda Chiarenza Tania Diaz Katrina Kleinman Georgianna McVay Henrietta Allman Heather Boggs Heidi James Nancy Showalter Cindy M. Machi Deborah Eileen Anderson Melissa Lohr Angela McDaniel Teresa Wilson Lynn M. Perry	California Central	2:17-cv-04129	2:17-cv-03345

Plaintiffs	Originating District	Originating Case No.	SDWV – MDL Member Case No.
Maria Medina Yolanda Pleasants Kathy Wright Ruby Flores Erica Venzor Tammy Vincent Robin Roberts Dalia Ruiz Norma Alvarez Betty Masch Arlene Brooks Cynthia Schnell Juliana Garcia Graciela Enriquez Sandra Bailon Judith Badillo Cynthia Johnson Alana Carter Sharon Louise Horvatin Katherine Shortsleeve Nancy Gaines Kelly Glasser Kimberlee Guerrero Marjorie Lind Crystal Baker Robin Zambetti Mary Kennedy Cynthia Johnson	California Central	2:17-cv-04129	2:17-cv-03345

Exhibit B

I. For Directly Filed Cases:

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

CHARLESTON DIVISION

***In Re: American Medical Systems, Inc., Pelvic Repair System
Products Liability Litigation
MDL No. 2325***

**Civil Action No. _____
(Severed from Civil Action No. _____)**

SHORT FORM COMPLAINT

II. For All Other Cases:

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

TABATHA ARNOLD, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

**Civil Action No. _____
(Severed from SDWV Civil Action
No. _____)**

American Medical Systems, Inc., et al.,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND