

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON DIVISION

IN RE: ETHICON INC. PELVIC REPAIR) MDL Docket No. 2327
SYSTEM PRODUCTS LIABILITY) HONORABLE JUDGE JOSEPH R.
LITIGATION) GOODWIN

PRETRIAL ORDER # 345
(ORDER RE: QUALIFIED SETTLEMENT FUND –
LAMINACK, PIRTLE & MARTINES, LLP

Pending is an Unopposed Motion for Approval of Qualified Settlement Fund, filed August 15, 2019. [ECF No. 8570]. Laminack, Pirtle & Martines, LLP (“LPM”), as counsel for certain plaintiffs in MDL No. 2327, has moved the Court for entry of an Order to aid in the efficient processing and administration of a Confidential Settlement Agreement (the “Settlement Agreement”) between Defendant Ethicon, Inc. and certain related companies (“Ethicon”) and LPM to resolve the claims of certain claimants against Ethicon relating to the implant of Ethicon Pelvic Mesh Products (as defined in the Settlement Agreement). The Court, having reviewed the Motion, and finding good and sufficient cause, FINDS and ORDERS the following:

1. The Unopposed Motion [ECF No. 8570] is **GRANTED**.
2. In order to assist in the administration of the settlement of claims brought by the clients of LPM, the LPM-ETHICON Qualified Settlement Fund shall be established as a Qualified Settlement Fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.468B-1, pursuant to this court's continuing

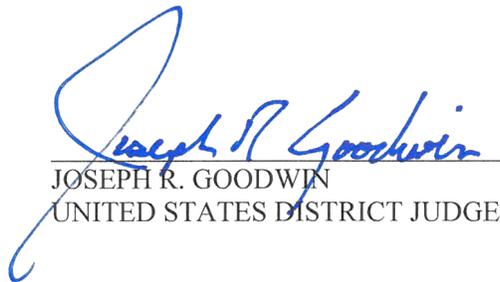
subject matter jurisdiction over the underlying matter and consistent with Treas. Reg. Section 1.468B-1(c)(1). All settlements reached by and between Ethicon and Plaintiffs in state or federal litigation or Claimants who are represented by LP&M pursuant to the Master Settlement Agreement dated September 10, 2018, shall be paid into the LPM-ETHICON Qualified Settlement Fund.

3. Susan S. Soussan is appointed as Fund Administrator and shall serve pursuant to the terms, conditions and restrictions of the Unopposed Motion, the Master Settlement Agreement, and the Escrow Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit A. LPM and said Fund Administrator are given the authority to conduct any and all activities necessary to administer this Fund as described in the Motion.
4. The LPM-ETHICON Qualified Settlement Fund, which includes all principal and interest earned thereon, shall be deposited in an account held in custody at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. (“JPM Chase”), and JPM Chase shall serve as the Escrow Agent pursuant to the terms of the Parties’ Escrow Agreement with JPM Chase. Investment related decisions shall be made pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the parties Master Settlement Agreement and Escrow Agreement, and disbursements from the LPM-ETHICON Qualified Settlement Fund shall be made pursuant to the terms of the Master Settlement Agreement and Escrow Agreement, which include provisions for payments into the MDL No. 2327 Fund.

5. The Fund Administrator is authorized to effect qualified assignments of any resulting structured settlement liability within the meaning of Section 130(c) of the Internal Revenue Code to the qualified assignee.
6. The Fund Administrator is authorized, upon final distribution of all monies paid into the Fund, to take appropriate steps to wind down the fund, and thereafter the Fund Administrator is discharged from any further responsibility with respect to the Fund.

The court **DIRECTS** the Clerk to file a copy of this order in 2:12-md-2327. 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.wvsc.uscourts.gov.

ENTER: August 21, 2019


JOSEPH R. GOODWIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

ESCROW AGREEMENT
(Class Action/Litigation Settlement Escrow)

THIS ESCROW AGREEMENT is entered into as of _____, 2019, by and among Johnson & Johnson and Ethicon, Inc. ("Company"), _____ (the "Administrator"), Laminack, Pirtle & Martines, LLP ("Plaintiffs' Counsel", and together with Company, Administrator, sometimes referred to individually as "Party" or collectively as the "Parties"), and JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA (the "Escrow Agent").

WHEREAS, pursuant to a Settlement Agreement, the Company has agreed, under certain circumstances, to make contributions into a settlement fund to be held in escrow subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and of the mutual covenants hereinafter set forth, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **Appointment.** The Parties hereby appoint Escrow Agent as their escrow agent for the purposes set forth herein, and Escrow Agent hereby accepts such appointment under the terms and conditions set forth herein.

2. **Settlement Fund; Investment.** (a) Company agrees to deposit with Escrow Agent [REDACTED]. Escrow Agent shall hold the Escrow Deposit in one or more demand deposit accounts and shall invest and reinvest the Escrow Deposit and the proceeds thereof ("Settlement Fund") in an interest bearing deposit demand account(s) which has rates of compensation that may vary from time to time as determined by Escrow Agent. No other investment is permitted hereunder.

(b) The Settlement Fund is to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a qualified settlement fund within the meaning of U.S. Department of Treasury ("Treas.") Reg. § 1.468B-1. Administrator shall be the "administrator" (as that term is used in Treas. Reg. §1.468B-2(k)(3)) of the Settlement Fund and will file such federal, state or local returns, pay such federal, state or local taxes, comply with applicable federal, state or local information reporting requirements and otherwise generally comply with the rules and regulations applicable to qualified settlement funds under Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-1 and relevant provisions of state and local tax law. Administrator is explicitly authorized to use the assets of the Settlement Fund (i) to satisfy such federal, state and local taxes as may be due with respect to the Settlement Fund and (ii) to reduce the amount of any payments under this Agreement by taxes paid or which Administrator reasonably concludes may become payable. Company shall comply with the provisions of the U.S. Department of Treasury Regulations applicable to the transferor to a qualified settlement fund and Administrator shall comply with its duties and obligations under the Reg. §1.468B rules.

(c) Administrator, and, as required, Company, shall jointly and timely make (or cause to be jointly and timely made) the "relation-back election" (as defined in Treas. Reg. § 1.468-1B) back to the earliest permitted date. Such election shall be made in compliance with the procedures and requirements contained in such regulations (or any successor regulations). It shall be the responsibility of the Administrator to timely and properly prepare, and deliver the necessary documentation (including but not limited to the disclosures and elections referred to above) for signature by all necessary Parties, and thereafter to cause the appropriate filing to occur.

(d) The Parties hereto acknowledge that Administrator shall not be held accountable for any fines, penalties or interest associated with late filings as a result of the failure or refusal of others to cooperate with Administrator. Administrator may retain or hire a qualified third party or parties ("Qualified Third Party") to perform any of its duties or responsibilities specified herein or in Treas. Reg. § 1-468B-2. The fees or costs of such Qualified Third Party shall be billed to Administrator and shall be paid from amounts on deposit in the Settlement Fund.

(e) Escrow Agent shall have no duty to comply with the provisions of Treasury Reg. § 1.468B, cited above. Furthermore, Escrow Agent shall not be deemed to have any knowledge or responsibility concerning the

applicability of such regulation to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. The Parties hereby represent to Escrow Agent that no other tax withholding or information reporting of any kind is required by the Escrow Agent.

3. **Disposition and Termination.** (a) The Escrow Agent shall release the Settlement Fund or any portion thereof in accordance with joint written instructions executed by an Authorized Representative of the Administrator, an Authorized Representative of Plaintiffs' Counsel, and an Authorized Representative of Company in substantially the form of Exhibit A-1. The Escrow Agent shall be entitled conclusively to rely upon any such joint written instructions.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in Section 8, any instructions setting forth, claiming, containing, objecting to, or in any way related to the transfer or distribution of the Settlement Fund, must be in writing and executed by the appropriate Party or Parties as evidenced by the signatures of the person or persons signing this Agreement or one of their designated persons as set forth on the Designation of Authorized Representatives attached hereto as Schedule 1-A, 1-B and 1-C (each an "Authorized Representative"), and delivered to Escrow Agent only by confirmed facsimile or as a Portable Document Format ("PDF") attached to an email on a Business Day only at the fax number or email address set forth in Section 8 below. Each Designation of Authorized Representatives shall be signed by the Secretary, any Assistant Secretary or other duly authorized officer of the named Party. No instruction for or related to the transfer or distribution of the Settlement Fund shall be deemed delivered and effective unless Escrow Agent actually shall have received it on a Business Day by facsimile or as a PDF attached to an email only at the fax number or email address set forth in Section 8 and in the case of a facsimile, as evidenced by a confirmed transmittal to the Party's or Parties' transmitting fax number and Escrow Agent has been able to satisfy any applicable security procedures as may be required hereunder. Escrow Agent shall not be liable to any Party or other person for refraining from acting upon any instruction for or related to the transfer or distribution of the Settlement Fund if delivered to any other fax number or email address, including but not limited to a valid email address of any employee of Escrow Agent.

(b) Each Party authorizes Escrow Agent to use the following funds transfer instructions to disburse any funds due to Company, Administrator and/or Plaintiffs' Counsel, respectively, (each an "Initial Standing Instruction), without a verifying call-back or email confirmation as set forth:

Company (Ethicon):

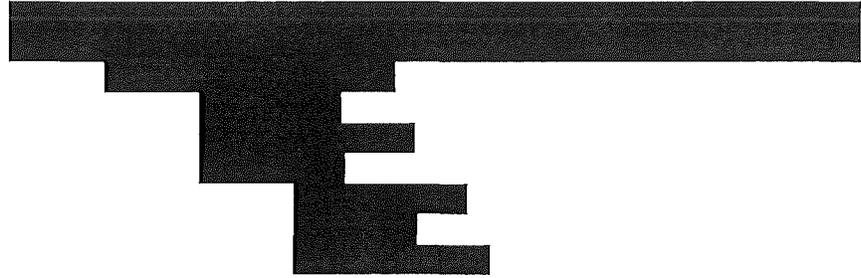
[REDACTED]

Administrator:

[REDACTED]

Plaintiffs' Counsel:

[REDACTED]



(c) In the event any funds transfer instructions other than an Initial Standing Instruction are set forth in a permitted instruction from a Party or the Parties in accordance with this Agreement (each additional funds transfer instruction, an “Additional Standing Instruction” and together with the Initial Standing Instructions, the “Standing Instructions”), Escrow Agent will confirm such Additional Standing Instructions by a telephone call-back or email confirmation to an Authorized Representative of such Party or the Parties, and Escrow Agent may rely upon the confirmation of anyone purporting to be that Authorized Representative. No funds will be disbursed until such confirmation occurs. Each Party agrees that after such confirmation, Escrow Agent may continue to rely solely upon such Additional Standing Instructions and all identifying information set forth therein for such beneficiary without an additional telephone call back or email confirmation. Further, it is understood and agreed that if multiple disbursements are provided for under this Agreement pursuant to any Standing Instructions, only the date, amount and/or description of payments may change without requiring a verifying callback or email confirmation.

(d) The persons designated as Authorized Representatives and telephone numbers for same may be changed only in a writing executed by an Authorized Representative or duly authorized officer of the applicable Party setting forth such changes and actually received by Escrow Agent via facsimile or as a PDF attached to an email. Escrow Agent will confirm any such change in Authorized Representatives by a telephone callback or email confirmation to an Authorized Representative and Escrow Agent may rely and act upon the confirmation of anyone purporting to be that Authorized Representative.

(e) Escrow Agent, any intermediary bank and the beneficiary's bank in any funds transfer may rely upon the identifying number of the beneficiary's bank or any intermediary bank included in a funds transfer instruction provided by a Party or the Parties and confirmed by an Authorized Representative. Further, the beneficiary's bank in the funds transfer instructions may make payment on the basis of the account number provided in such Party's or the Parties' instruction and confirmed by an Authorized Representative even though it identifies a person different from the named beneficiary.

(f) As used in this Section 3, “Business Day” shall mean any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or any other day on which Escrow Agent located at the notice address set forth below is authorized or required by law or executive order to remain closed. The Parties acknowledge that the security procedures set forth in this Section 3 are commercially reasonable. Upon delivery of the Settlement Fund in full by Escrow Agent pursuant to this Section 3, this Agreement shall terminate and the related account(s) shall be closed, subject to the provisions of Section 6.

(g) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, in the event that an electronic signature is affixed to an instruction issued hereunder to disburse or transfer funds, such instruction shall be confirmed by a verifying callback (or email confirmation) to an Authorized Representative.

4. **Escrow Agent.** Escrow Agent shall have only those duties as are specifically and expressly provided herein, which shall be deemed purely ministerial in nature, and no other duties, including but not limited to any fiduciary duty, shall be implied. Escrow Agent has no knowledge of, nor any obligation to comply with, the terms and conditions of any other agreement between the Parties, including but not limited to the Settlement Agreement, nor shall Escrow Agent be required to determine if any Party has complied with any other agreement. Notwithstanding the terms of any other agreement between the Parties, the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall control the actions of Escrow Agent. Escrow Agent may conclusively rely upon any written notice, document, instruction or request delivered by the Parties believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed by an Authorized

Representative(s), as applicable, without inquiry and without requiring substantiating evidence of any kind and Escrow Agent shall be under no duty to inquire into or investigate the validity, accuracy or content of any such document, notice, instruction or request. Any notice, document, instruction or request delivered by a Party but not required under this Agreement may be disregarded by the Escrow Agent. Escrow Agent shall not be liable for any action taken, suffered or omitted to be taken by it in good faith except to the extent that Escrow Agent's gross negligence or willful misconduct was the cause of any direct loss to either Party. Escrow Agent may execute any of its powers and perform any of its duties hereunder directly or through affiliates or agents. In the event Escrow Agent shall be uncertain, or believes there is some ambiguity, as to its duties or rights hereunder or receives instructions, claims or demands from any Party hereto which in Escrow Agent's judgment conflict with the provisions of this Agreement, or if Escrow Agent receives conflicting instructions from the Parties, Escrow Agent shall be entitled either to: (a) refrain from taking any action until it shall be given (i) a joint written direction executed by Authorized Representatives of the Parties which eliminates such conflict or (ii) a court order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction (it being understood that the Escrow Agent shall be entitled conclusively to rely and act upon any such court order and shall have no obligation to determine whether any such court order is final); or (b) file an action in interpleader. Escrow Agent shall have no duty to solicit any payments which may be due it or the Settlement Fund, including, without limitation, the Escrow Deposit nor shall the Escrow Agent have any duty or obligation to confirm or verify the accuracy or correctness of any amounts deposited with it hereunder. The Parties grant to the Escrow Agent a lien and security interest in the Settlement Fund in order to secure any indemnification obligations of the Parties or obligation for fees or expenses owed to the Escrow Agent hereunder. Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, in no event shall Escrow Agent be liable for special, incidental, punitive, indirect or consequential loss or damage of any kind whatsoever (including but not limited to lost profits), even if Escrow Agent has been advised of the likelihood of such loss or damage and regardless of the form of action.

5. **Succession.** Escrow Agent may resign and be discharged from its duties or obligations hereunder by giving not less than thirty (30) days advance notice in writing of such resignation to the Parties or may be removed, with or without cause, by the Parties at any time after giving not less than thirty (30) days advance joint written notice to the Escrow Agent. Escrow Agent's sole responsibility after such thirty (30) day notice period expires shall be to hold the Settlement Fund (without any obligation to reinvest the same) and to deliver the same to a designated substitute escrow agent, if any, appointed by the Parties, or such other person designated by the Parties, or in accordance with the directions of a final court order, at which time of delivery, Escrow Agent's obligations hereunder shall cease and terminate. If prior to the effective resignation or removal date, the Parties have failed to appoint a successor escrow agent, or to instruct the Escrow Agent to deliver the Settlement Fund to another person as provided above, or if such delivery is contrary to applicable law, at any time on or after the effective resignation date, Escrow Agent either (a) may interplead the Settlement Fund with a court located in the State of New Jersey and the costs, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees which are incurred in connection with such proceeding may be charged against and withdrawn from the Settlement Fund; or (b) appoint a successor escrow agent of its own choice. Any appointment of a successor escrow agent shall be binding upon the Parties and no appointed successor escrow agent shall be deemed to be an agent of Escrow Agent. Escrow Agent shall deliver the Settlement Fund to any appointed successor escrow agent, at which time Escrow Agent's obligations under this Agreement shall cease and terminate. Any entity into which Escrow Agent may be merged or converted or with which it may be consolidated, or any entity to which all or substantially all the escrow business may be transferred, shall be the Escrow Agent under this Agreement without further act.

6. **Compensation; Acknowledgment.** (a) The Parties agree that the compensation of the Escrow Agent under this Agreement shall be considered an administrative expense of the settlement. The Parties shall be responsible for directing payment from the settlement administrative expenses funds under the Settlement Agreement in the Settlement Fund to pay Escrow Agent under this Agreement and from time to time thereafter reasonable compensation for the services to be rendered hereunder, which unless otherwise agreed in writing, shall be as described in Schedule 2.

(b) Each of the Parties further agrees to the disclosures and agreements set forth in Schedule 2.

7. **Indemnification and Reimbursement.** The Parties agree jointly and severally to indemnify, defend, hold harmless, pay or reimburse Escrow Agent and its affiliates and their respective successors, assigns, directors, agents and employees (the "Indemnitees") from and against any and all losses, damages, claims, liabilities, costs or expenses (including, attorney's fees) (collectively "Losses"), resulting directly or indirectly from (a) Escrow Agent's performance of this Agreement, except to the extent that such Losses are determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have been caused by the gross negligence, willful misconduct, or bad faith of such Indemnatee; and (b) Escrow Agent's following, accepting or acting upon any instructions or directions, whether joint or singular, from the Parties received in accordance with this Agreement. The Parties hereby grant Escrow Agent a right of set-off against the Settlement Fund for the payment of any claim for indemnification, fees, expenses and amounts due to Escrow Agent or an Indemnatee. The obligations set forth in this Section 7 shall survive the resignation, replacement or removal of Escrow Agent or the termination of this Agreement.

8. **Notices.** Except as otherwise set forth in Section 3(a) above, all communications hereunder shall be in writing or set forth in a PDF attached to an email, and shall be delivered by facsimile, email or overnight courier only to the appropriate fax number, email address, or notice address set forth for each party as follows:

If to Company:

[REDACTED]

With copies to:

[REDACTED]

If to Administrator:

[REDACTED]

**Account statements
and billing:**

[REDACTED]

With copies to:

[REDACTED]

If to Plaintiffs' Counsel:

[REDACTED]

Account statements
and billing:

[REDACTED]

If to Escrow Agent:

[REDACTED]

9. **Compliance with Court Orders.** In the event that a legal garnishment, attachment, levy, restraining notice or court order is served with respect to any of the Settlement Fund, or the delivery thereof shall be stayed or enjoined by an order of a court, Escrow Agent is hereby expressly authorized, in its sole discretion, to obey and comply with all such orders so entered or issued and in the event that Escrow Agent obeys or complies with any such order it shall not be liable to any of the Parties hereto or to any other person by reason of such compliance notwithstanding such order be subsequently reversed, modified, annulled, set aside or vacated.

10. **Miscellaneous.** (a) The provisions of this Agreement may be waived, altered, amended or supplemented only by a writing signed by the Escrow Agent and the Parties. This Agreement and any right or interest hereunder may be assigned by a Party only in a writing agreed upon and signed by the Escrow Agent and the Parties. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of New Jersey. Each Party and Escrow Agent irrevocably waives any objection on the grounds of venue, forum non-conveniens or any similar grounds and irrevocably consents to service of process by mail or in any other manner permitted by applicable law and consents to the jurisdiction of the courts located in the State of New Jersey. To the extent that in any jurisdiction either Party may now or hereafter be entitled to claim for itself or its assets, immunity from suit, execution, attachment (before or after judgment) or other legal process, such Party shall not claim, and hereby irrevocably waives, such immunity. Escrow Agent and the Parties further hereby waive any right to a trial by jury with respect to any lawsuit or judicial proceeding arising or relating to this Agreement.

(b) No party to this Agreement is liable to any other party for losses due to, or if it is unable to perform its obligations under the terms of this Agreement because of, acts of God, fire, war, terrorism, floods, strikes, electrical outages, equipment or transmission failure, or other causes reasonably beyond its control. This Agreement and any joint instructions from the Parties, may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument or instruction, as applicable. This Agreement may be executed and transmitted by facsimile or as a PDF attached to an email or may be electronically signed and each such execution shall be of the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as a manually executed, original, wet-inked signature. All signatures of the parties to this Agreement may be transmitted by facsimile or PDF attached to an email, and each such execution shall be of the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as a manually executed, original, wet-inked signature. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be prohibited or unenforceable by reason of any applicable law of a jurisdiction, then such provision shall, as to such jurisdiction, be ineffective to the extent of such prohibition or unenforceability without invalidating the remaining provisions thereof, and any such prohibition or unenforceability in such jurisdiction shall not invalidate or render unenforceable such provisions in any other jurisdiction. The Parties each represent, warrant and

covenant that (i) each document, notice, instruction or request provided by such Party to Escrow Agent shall comply with applicable laws and regulations; (ii) such Party has full power and authority to enter into this Agreement and to perform all of the duties and obligations to be performed by it hereunder; (iii) the person(s) executing this Agreement on such Party's behalf and certifying Authorized Representatives in the applicable Schedule 1 has been duly and properly authorized to do so, and each Authorized Representative of such Party has been duly and properly authorized to take actions specified for such person in the applicable Schedule 1. Except as expressly provided in Section 7 above, nothing in this Agreement, whether express or implied, shall be construed to give to any person or entity other than Escrow Agent and the Parties any legal or equitable right, remedy, interest or claim under or in respect of the Settlement Fund or this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date set forth above.

COMPANY (Johnson & Johnson and Ethicon, Inc.)

By:

[Redacted signature]

ADMINISTRATOR

[Redacted name]

By:

[Redacted signature]

PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL (Laminack, Pirtle & Martines, LLP)

By:

[Redacted signature]

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NA,
As Escrow Agent

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____