

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 # 352
(ORDER RE: QUALIFIED SETTLEMENT FUND —
MOTLEY RICE LLC)

Pending is an Unopposed Motion for Approval of Qualified Settlement Fund, filed April 14, 2021. [ECF No. 9205]. Motley Rice LLC ("Motley Rice"), and Participating Law Firms ("Plaintiffs' Counsel") 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 entered into in December, 2019 (the "Settlement Agreement") between Defendant Ethicon, Inc. and certain related companies ("Ethicon") and Plaintiffs' Counsel 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 is **GRANTED**.
2. In order to assist in the administration of the settlement of claims brought by the clients of Motley Rice, the MOTLEY RICE-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

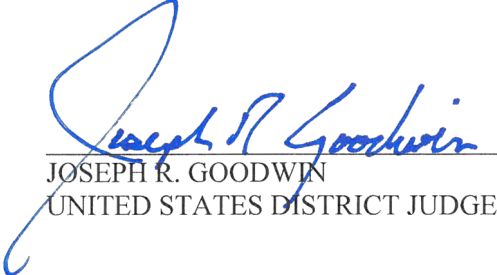
state or federal litigation or Claimants who are represented by Plaintiffs' Counsel pursuant to the Master Settlement Agreement shall be paid into the MOTLEY RICE-ETHICON Qualified Settlement Fund.

3. Tice O'Sullivan of Epic Class Actions & Claims Solutions, Inc. is appointed as Fund Administrator and shall serve pursuant to the terms, conditions and restrictions of the Unopposed Motion, the parties' Master Settlement Agreement, and the parties' Escrow Agreement. Motley Rice 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 MOTLEY RICE-ETHICON Qualified Settlement Fund, which includes all principal and interest earned thereon, shall be deposited in an account held in custody at Citibank, N.A. ("Citibank"), and Citibank shall serve as the Escrow Agent pursuant to the terms of the Parties' Escrow Agreement with Citibank. 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 MOTLEY RICE-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, by and through the Escrow Agent is authorized to distribute all attorneys' fees and litigation expenses, whether in the form of cash, periodic payments and the assignment of such payments, or a combination thereof.
7. 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-02327 and it shall apply to each member related case previously transferred to, removed to, or filed in this district *where applicable*. 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.wvsc.uscourts.gov.

ENTER: April 19, 2021


JOSEPH R. GOODWIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE