

**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.:**

Nicholson, et al. v. American Medical Systems, Inc., et al. 2:13-cv-31707

**PRETRIAL ORDER # 137
(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 **March 25, 2014**.

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 and its original filing date. 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.)

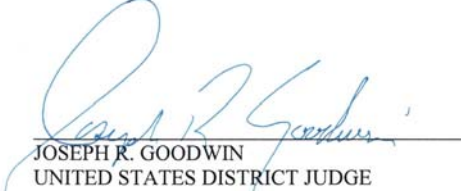
6. Any individual Complaint filed within the time provided by this PTO will be deemed to have been filed on and relate back to the original filing date of the applicable multi-plaintiff civil action. Any statute of limitations defense that existed as of the filing dates of the original multi-plaintiff 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 **March 20, 2014**. 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 **2:13-cv-31707** 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 2:14-cv-11824. 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: March 10, 2014


JOSEPH R. GOODWIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

MDL 2325 - EXHIBIT A

| Plaintiffs | Originating District | Originating Case No. | SDWV – MDL Member Case No. |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Melissa Nicholson Tracey Nitcholas Lois Amick Barbara Woody-Robinson Debra Blanton Sandra Edwards Carolyn Gary Rachel Hernandez Gail Mayfield Mary Perez Jakisia D. Vaughn Melanie Krausen Becky Beck Kathy Brewer Rebecca Greenwalt Beverly Howard Florenda Jackson Uttamchand Jain Dorothy Joiner Doris Jena Sago Terry Sanchez Rose Cotton Tina Stucke Rebecca Ray Nancy Thurman Rhonda Tucker Victoria Ingram Deborah Simpson Shirley Pierce Teresa Morton Mary Watson Linda Vanwhite Paula Easterday Lisa Mohr Tina Norton Doris A. Melancon Debra Kuta Tomisa Staggs Gloria Jackson Janice Cook Linda Martin Sharon Roach Julie Amoyal | Texas Southern | 3:13-cv-00372 | 2:13-cv-31707 |

| Plaintiffs | Originating District | Originating Case No. | SDWV – MDL Member Case No. |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <p>Marcia Carpenter Jamie Walker Ruth Brown Linda Edwards Virginia Croft Luz Wilson Carmen Santos Alina Babb Theresa Spencer Kathy Fought Chrischelle Brown Patricia Dooley Margaret Loera Lorraine Mason Flora Phillips Emma J. Wolfe Shirley Pilkington Rebecca Rice Rhonda May Sara Booker Romunda Babb Susan L. Barnes Carol Nesbit Opal Litras Gloria Diebold Nancy Duncan Ann Hatcher Robinette Meeks Donna Mitchell Kim Passafiume Marcia Shrock Mary Spaulding Lisa Smith Vickie Shadrick Jessie Ward Arlene Henderson Janice Kathy Winkler Judy Ashbrook Bessie Maggard Cindy Rister Christie Woodburn Shawna Smith Janice A. Simmons Hinda Taylor</p> | <p>Texas Southern</p> | <p>3:13-cv-00372</p> | <p>2:13-cv-31707</p> |

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. _____ filed _____)**

SHORT FORM COMPLAINT

II. For All Other Cases:

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

TABATHA ARNOLD, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

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

American Medical Systems, Inc., et al.,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND