

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

STATUS CONFERENCE

In Re: Fluoroquinolone Products Liability
Litigation,

Plaintiff,

v.

Defendant

COURT MINUTES

BEFORE: John R. Tunheim
Chief U.S. District Judge

Case No: 15-2642 JRT
Date: May 21, 2020
Deputy: Heather Arent-Zachary
Court Reporter: Kristine Mousseau
Time Commenced: 3:23 pm
Time Concluded: 3:43 pm
Time in Court: 20 Minutes

Hearing on: Status Conference

I. Settlement Update

Counsel for Defendants stated that there were twenty-two (22) cases remaining against Johnson & Johnson, ten (10) of which were pro se. Twelve (12) of the twenty-two cases are engaged in settlement discussions.

Additionally, Counsel noted that there are three (3) cases remaining against Bayer and Merck, one of which is unfiled. Counsel noted that of the remaining cases against Bayer, Plaintiff Chauvin has until July 6 to serve expert reports, and that Defendants would likely make motions to dismiss the other two remaining cases.

Plaintiffs' Counsel provided an update on problems that some Plaintiffs have had receiving settlement payment. Plaintiffs' Counsel stated that it appeared that some plaintiffs' payments have been delayed due to disputes between the payment processor, Archer, and private lienholders of certain plaintiffs. Plaintiffs' Counsel agreed to, where possible and when approved by the specific plaintiff, hold back a portion of the settlement due until the private lien dispute is resolved but release what is not needed to cover the lien to the plaintiff.

II. Akman v. Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. et al (Case No. 17-260)

Attorneys for both Ms. Akman and Defendant Cobalt joined the call. After hearing from both parties, the Court set a thirty-day (30) time period for the parties to engage in informal settlement discussions. If the parties did not reach an agreement, the Court stated that the parties should file their respective motions—to remand and/or to dismiss—and the Court would hear them concurrently.

III. Scheduling of Next Status Conference

The next status conference will be scheduled in late July 2020.

APPEARANCES:

Plaintiffs: Yvonne Flaherty, Bill Robins, R. Jason Richards

Defendants: Jan McLean Bernier, Andrew Solow

On the phone: Chris Nidel, Michael Suffern

s/Heather Arent-Zachary
Courtroom Deputy Clerk