## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT <br> EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE: XARELTO * Docket No. MDL-2592
(RIVAROXABAN) PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION
Section L
New Orleans, Louisiana April 20, 2016

TRANSCRIPT OF MONTHLY STATUS CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE ELDON E. FALLON UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript produced by computer.

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## PROCEEDINGS

(April 20, 2016)
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## (COURT CALLED TO ORDER)

THE COURT: Be seated, please. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Let's call the case.

THE DEPUTY CLERK: MDL No. 2592, In Re: Xare7to Products Liability Litigation.

THE COURT: Counse1, make their appearance for the record, please.

MR. DAVIS: Good morning, Your Honor. Leonard Davis from the law firm of Herman, Herman, Katz, representing the plaintiffs.

MR. IRWIN: And Jim Irwin for defendants Bayer and Janssen.

THE COURT: Okay. We're here today for our monthly status conference. I had a conference a moment ago with lead liaison counse1 to discuss the agenda. We'11 take it in the order proposed.

The first item is pretrial orders.
MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, the first item on the agenda are pretrial orders. And there are a number of pretrial orders that were issued, and I'd like to go through them even though some of them may relate to other items later in the agenda.

THE COURT: Sure.
MR. DAVIS: But I think it's important, especially for those on the phone, to be aware of the new pretrial orders, specifically, Pretrial Orders Nos. 11E and 11F.

This one specifically deals with bundling of complaints in Pretrial Order No. 11. And the new pretrial order terminates the procedure for filing bundled complaints per PTO 11. So it was vacated. So that as of May the 11th -and I'11 repeat that date -- as of -- I'm sorry, May the 20th -- as of May the 20th, 2016, no complaints, per pretrial order 11, will be received by the Clerk of Court.

And I wanted people to be aware of those pretrial orders that specifically deal with bundled complaints and the deadline of May the 20th of this year.

THE COURT: Yes. I wanted to give enough notice. I didn't want to all of a sudden mention that. But I gave them enough notice so that if they do intend to file them anyplace in the country, bundled complaints, they have to do so before that date.

MR. DAVIS: And, Your Honor, that specifically relates to the section later in the report regarding bundled complaints.

THE COURT: Right.
MR. DAVIS: The Court also issued Pretrial Order No. 24, which deals with subject matter jurisdiction and sets

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forth dismissal guidelines, and I wanted people to be aware of that so that if they plan on having dismissals on subject matter, they address that order.

And also Pretrial Order No. 25, which sets forth a time frame for production of documents from third parties.

And just so folks on the phone are aware, all of Your Honor's orders are located on the Court's Web site.

With respect to Item No. 2, Case Management Orders No. 2, 3 and 4, there's nothing new to report on those.

With respect to No. 3, bellwether selection, the 40 bellwether discovery pool cases are being worked up, and we are in the process of preparing those for the upcoming trials.

With respect to Item No. 4, we continue to receive counse1 contact forms. And I'11 remind people that there is an obligation to send that in. It's helpful so you have access to various information, including MDL centrality and things like that.

On Item No. 5, plaintiff fact sheets, I know BrownGreer is here to make a report. But, Your Honor, we continue to discuss with defendants plaintiff fact sheets.

And I'11 also talk about No. 6, defendant fact sheets. We continue to have discussions on those matters and will report back to the Court as appropriate and if there are issues.

I also apologize. In section 6, there's a typo

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about six lines in that says, "At the March 16th status conference . . . ." It should be, "At the April status conference."

But I'11 turn it over to BrownGreer to make their report.

THE COURT: Yes. The fact sheets are very important in these types of cases. We can't do the interrogatories that we do traditionally. It just takes too long and it creates too many problems. So we utilize fact sheets, and that's more efficient and is better able to be dealt with.

MR. WOODY: Good morning, Your Honor. My name is Jake Woody from BrownGreer.

THE COURT: Jake.
MR. WOODY: I have a brief report for you on MDL centrality and fact sheets in this matter.

So far we have 4,953 plaintiff fact sheets submitted. That's an increase of 533 since the last status conference. We have 2,036 fact sheets in progress, meaning they've been started, but not yet submitted. And we have 1,644 amended fact sheets. And that's an increase of 141 since the last status conference.

THE COURT: Is the 1,644 in addition to the 4,953 ?
MR. WOODY: No, they're part of that --
THE COURT: Part of it.
MR. WOODY: -- 4,000.

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THE COURT: But 2,000 is not part of it?
MR. WOODY: Correct. Correct. So we have a total of 6,992 plaintiffs in the system, which is an increase of 743 since our last status conference.

THE COURT: How many are you getting a month, Jake?
MR. WOODY: We are getting about 500 a month. Here's our monthly chart. Ever since about last November -- actually, in October it's been steady at about 500 a month. That number does not seem to be changing. Especially, in the previous slide I showed you, there's 700 new people in the system. So we don't see any sign that that number will stop. In April, we have 327 so far with about 10 days left in the month; and last March we had 506.

THE COURT: And are the groupings of people consistent with what you have now already?

MR. WOODY: Yes. Yes. I have a slide in just a minute about that. But, yes, the demographics are not changing significantly, even though we're getting more and more fact sheets. So the new people coming in are substantially similar to the people who are already in.

Defendant fact sheets, just like the plaintiff fact sheets, are steady. We have 5,818 defendant fact sheets submitted, split roughly evenly between Bayer and Janssen. We had 900 in March, and 650 so far in April. And as long as the plaintiff fact sheets remain steady, I expect the defendant
fact sheets to remain steady because they are simply responses to plaintiff fact sheets.

I mentioned earlier that the demographics haven't changed. I showed this slide last month. It's the same. The information is the same, even though I updated it, because the people coming in just aren't -- they aren't different than the people who are already in.

So the male/female split is 51 percent male, 49 percent female. And you can see that the age, the people between 60 and 79 make up 59 percent of the MDL as a whole. So that is the main age group, and it's split evenly between genders.

In terms of the discovery pool, this slide is also identical to the slide last month, even though I updated the numbers to account for the new fact sheets, because the discovery pool and the new people coming in just aren't that different.

So you've got 51 percent male in the MDL, and 52 percent in the discovery pool. 60 to 79 age group is 59 percent of the MDL; it's 77 percent of the discovery pool, and that difference is because of the protocol used to pick the discovery pool, to exclude younger people and be more inclusive of people in this main age group. So the discovery pool percentage is a little higher than the MDL here, but that is by design.

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The same with the major injury, which is a GI bleed. It's the number one injury alleged. 60 percent of the MDL allege that injury; 72 percent of the discovery pool. And, again, the protocols were designed to be more inclusive of the main sort of cornerstone data points.

Reduction of stroke risk is the main indication. 52 percent of the MDL have that indication -- or that's the reason that they were prescribed Xare7to; 72 percent of the discovery pool.

And on terms of who was hospitalized, 93 percent of the MDL was hospitalized; 97 percent of the discovery pool.

So you can see that the discovery pool matches the MDL. In some cases, it's a little bit higher, but that is by design by agreement of the parties.

I did want to point out a few improvements that we've made to our home page. This is for plaintiffs: You can now control which e-mails you get. If you want to get individual pleadings e-mails, you can check that box. If you just want to get that end-of-the-day summary, you can check that.

We put the PTOs and CMOs that the Court has on its Web site, we went ahead and put them on our Web site as wel1 so that people can get them there without having to go elsewhere. And we also put the status conference information that the Court has on its Web site here as well. And we will

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update those as new PTOs and status conference transcripts come through.

This is our attempt to make this one place where people can go and get all the information they need about the MDL and do their fact sheets and do all that sort of thing. And we'11 continue to improve this as we think of more things that might be helpful.

Finally, this is our summary. I do want to point out Row 3, which is duplicate plaintiffs identified. We've identified 35 plaintiffs who are represented by separate law firms. They have two separate fact sheets, two separate entries, and we know they are duplicates because they have the same social security number and date of birth and name.

We will do some outreach to those firms and let them know that there's an overlap in representation and try to resolve those issues now rather than years from now when they're trying to figure out who represents who and who should dismiss cases and things of that nature.

THE COURT: After you make that outreach, if they still are that way, I'd like the plaintiffs committee to at least talk to the lawyers and see where we are with that, and I'11 get involved in it if you need me to.

MR. DAVIS: No. It would be helpful, and I want to make sure that if a plaintiff is clearing that up through centrality, they also clear up the docket in this court so that
we know who the counse1 is in the court's record.
THE COURT: Yes.
MR. WOODY: One of the things I looked at was the docket number listed on the fact sheet and those are different. I think they have different cases. So we can work with them to clean up not only our system, but also with the Court to deal with those cases.

MR. DAVIS: We'11 work with BrownGreer on that.
THE COURT: Al1 right. Okay.
MR. WOODY: And that is my summary, Your Honor. I hope it's been helpful. If there's any questions from the Court or the parties, we're always available.

THE COURT: No, that's fine. Jake, would you send me a copy of that? Just a hard copy.

MR. WOODY: Yes, I'11 send it to Thomas.
THE COURT: Good.
MR. WOODY: Thank you.
THE COURT: Thank you.
MR. DAVIS: Here's a copy, Your Honor.
Your Honor, with respect to Section 7, bundling of complaints, I've previously spoken about Pretrial Orders 11E \& F and 24, and I don't believe that there's anything further for me to address with that section.

The next section is preservation orders.
There's nothing new on that.

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The next section, No. 9, is the proposed order governing the parties interaction with MDL plaintiffs' prescribing and treating physicians.

The defendants filed a motion for reconsideration on this matter on April 6th. We have addressed this matter with the Court in the biweekly conferences, and the parties are preparing an additional order to present to the Court based upon guidance that Your Honor gave during the conference.

With respect to Section 10 on discovery, depositions are being scheduled, and I'11 report that they are ongoing; and as Your Honor knows, these sometimes are addressed in the biweekly calls as needed. But so folks know, they are ongoing and the depositions have been taking place.

The PSC has brought challenges to privileged documents, and those issues are addressed. We have a weekly call where those issues are being addressed. And if there are issues, those privilege issues will be brought to the attention of the Court. But I am happy to say that we have had some good discussions in those calls. Anthony Irpino has been involved in those matters, and I know Your Honor is familiar with Mr. Irpino.

We also have challenges on confidential
designations that the PSC has brought, and we are in the meet and confer process, and we continue to have discussions on

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those issues. And if, in fact, there are issues that need to be brought to the Court's attention, they'11 be brought up appropriately.

With respect to the biological samples of Xarelto related studies, the current Xarelto related studies, defendants advise that they desire to dispose of those samples, and we continue to consider those issues.

With respect to a motion to compel discovery of the defendant German employee and their personnel files, that issue is set to be argued on May the 5th. We have discussed this in the pre-conference, and just so that everybody is aware, defendant's brief is due tomorrow, and a reply brief will be due on April the 28th. So those briefing deadlines are in place.

The last item in discovery is the Court asked us to place on the agenda the issue of discussion concerning the Paul Herman matter and salary, and we placed that on the agenda; and that issue, I think, has been addressed, and the parties are aware of the Court's desire with respect to that.

The next item is No. 11, deposition guidelines. The parties filed a consent motion this past week, and I believe it's in Your Honor's hands --

THE COURT: Right.
MR. DAVIS: -- with respect to the consideration of that motion, and we await further guidance from the Court.

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With respect to No. 12, discovery issued to third parties, there was a third party subpoena that was issued to an entity called Alere, Alere San Diego Inc., and they have responded with objections. We'11 be dealing with that.

Defendants are aware of that issue. And we will be reaching out to them and discussing that and having a meet and confer, hopefully, to deal with that issue.

THE COURT: Keep me focused on that. If that presents a problem, get to me and I'11 deal with it.

MR. DAVIS: Ms. Barrios is not present today on the next section on state/federal coordination and she's asked that we make a report. I have to tell you, Your Honor, I'm not used to this, but I have her report here and I'11 try to go through the bottom line of it.

There are a number of state court matters that are reported in her report, and I'm happy to provide a copy to defense counsel, as well as the Court.

According to Ms. Barrios' report, the change in number of cases filed since the last status conference, there's an increase of 93 cases; and there are total cases filed, 808.

With respect to the change in number of Xarelto users since the last status conference, according to her report, it's up 164. And the current number of Xarelto users is 1,087 .

THE COURT: Where are the cases being filed in state
court? Which states?
MR. DAVIS: There are California cases, Your Honor. There's Delaware. There's Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.

THE COURT: Are most of them stil1 in Pennsylvania, number-wise?

MR. DAVIS: I think Pennsylvania has the most.
THE COURT: Susan?
MS. SHARKO: I can help Mr. Davis. The state court cases are primarily in Pennsylvania. Then the recent filings we discussed in chambers, in Delaware. There are a number of filings in California, and a motion for statewide coordination is to be decided. I think most of the others are either random cases that have no diversity, or they're cases that were filed and are in the process of removal.

THE COURT: Okay. Ask Dawn to get with me on the judges who are handling them that $I$ haven't contacted yet. I know I've been talking to Judge New recently, and he's going to use our protocol for depositions with some tweaks. If I can be of help to any of the other judges, I'd like to at least offer it.

MR. DAVIS: I will report back to Ms. Barrios, as we11 as others on the committee, and someone will get back to Your Honor on that.

THE COURT: A11 right.


MR. DAVIS: We also will be reaching out to some of the new lawyers that have filed in these cases, for instance, we understand Delaware, and the PSC will be reaching out to these lawyers, and hopefully we'11 get coordination.

There is one matter set for hearing after the conference, which is a carryover from last month.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, let's take that up now then if we can. What is the motion?

MR. DAVIS: I think it's defendant's motion, Your Honor. I'11 let them address that.

MR. IRWIN: Your Honor, Ms. Deirdre Kole will be speaking as to this order to show cause matter, your order of yesterday, I believe, Document No. 3074.

THE COURT: Okay.
MS. KOLE: Good morning, Your Honor. Deirdre Kole for the defendants.

Yesterday Your Honor issued an order to show cause further to the show cause hearing on March 16th, 2016. There are several cases identified on the order to show cause. Three have been resolved. Those are Mark McDonald, 2:15-CV-05669; Maurice Quarles, 2:15-CV-05598; and Gerald Stevenson, 2:15-CV-03098.

The remainder of the defendants, we'd submit should be dismissed in accordance with Your Honor's rulings last time.

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THE COURT: Anybody speaking on behalf of those plaintiffs either on the phone or in person?

Hearing none, who are the plaintiffs?
MS. KOLE: The remaining plaintiffs, Your Honor, would be Peggy Autrey, 2:15-CV-05064; Fannie Dogget, 2:15-CV-01249; Russe11 Jackson, 2:15-CV-05638; Toni May, 2:15-CV-03803; Joyce Mannhalter, 2:15-CV-03148; Sheila McKoy, 2:15-CV-01253; and Etta Means, 2:15-CV-04568.

THE COURT: Anybody on the phone that wishes to say anything about any of those cases?

MR. LEAL: Good morning, Your Honor. This is Joshua R. Leal. I'm addressing the first case. I'm counsel for Peggy Autrey. I just want to let you know, Your Honor, we've done everything we could in our power to show proof of using Xarelto. However, we lack the cooperation of our client.

We were at least able to request pharmacy records from three different pharmacies, and they just don't show proof of using the medication. The client did represent that she would go to the pharmacy herself and get the proof, and she hasn't done so.

And, for the record, for the past five months, we've sent at least 12 different letters to the client, telling her how important it is, we need specific information or the case will be dismissed, and we just have not been provided the information. So there's nothing else, as legal counsel, we can
do to get the proof without our client's cooperation.
THE COURT: Okay. We11, I appreciate your efforts in the matter, and you've done a great job in trying to represent her. She has responsibilities to keep in touch with you, and it's not your fault if she hasn't kept in touch with you or hasn't responded to you.

So I appreciate your coming on the phone and your participation in the case. It's been very helpful, and you've done it in a very professional way, and I appreciate it.

MR. LEAL: Thank you, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Yes?
MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, the PSC would object to any dismissals, and specifically dismissals with prejudice. We've also, as we've indicated previously to the Court, reached out to these lawyers as best we can and attempted to communicate with them. Cindy Danie1, who was present last time, has followed up, and we have had communications with all of these lawyers.

I'11 point out one, and I know Ms. Kole is aware of this, with respect to Joyce Mannhalter, which is 2:15-CV-03148, we understood that that firm was going to call in. The attorney is Randi Kassan from the Sanders, Phillips Grossman, LLC firm.

And they originally alleged that they filed this case in a bundled complaint in error and amended the complaint
an hour or so later and attempted to remove this plaintiff from the bundled complaint because it was a mistake.

The plaintiff, as we understand it, has been trying to resolve this matter with the defendants, but they've been unable to resolve it, and they were going to call in to try to address the matter and deal with it. I understand from Ms. Kole that she understood they were going to call in as well.

So I just point that out to the Court, and I have not heard from this person any further.

THE COURT: Okay. Anybody in connection with the Joyce Mannhalter case on the phone?

Okay. Al1 right. Then in view of our attempts to contact people, in view of their unwillingness or whatever, they didn't respond, they failed to respond to the Court's order, address the Court's order, I'm going to dismiss the cases, and I'm going to dismiss the cases with prejudice.

I understand the plaintiff's position, but it's time that these cases get over. I'm dismissing them with prejudice.

Thank you very much.
MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Your Honor.
MS. KOLE: Thank you, Your Honor.
Your Honor, would you like defendants to submit an order?
08:55

THE COURT: Yes.
MS. KOLE: Okay. Thank you.
THE COURT: Anything else?
MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, I think just the next status conference.

THE COURT: Okay. The next status meeting is when, Thomas? May 24th. And the one in June, June the 24th. June 24th, May 24th at 9:00 a.m., 8:30 for the lead and 1iaison counse1 pre-meeting.

A11 right. Thank you very much. Court wil1 stand in recess.
(WHEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded.) *****

## CERTIFICATE

I, Jodi Simcox, RMR, FCRR, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript, to the best of my ability and understanding, from the record of the proceedings in the above-entitled and numbered matter.
s/Jodi Simcox, $R M R, \quad F C R R$
Jodi Simcox, RMR, FCRR
Official Court Reporter

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