

Exhibit A

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION**

CHAIRMAN:
Judge Wm. Terrell Hodges
United States District Court
Middle District of Florida

MEMBERS:
Judge D. Lowell Jensen
United States District Court
Northern District of California

Judge J. Frederick Motz
United States District Court
District of Maryland

Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr.
United States District Court
Northern District of Indiana

Judge Kathryn H. Vratil
United States District Court
District of Kansas

Judge David R. Hansen
United States Court of Appeals
Eighth Circuit

Judge Anthony J. Scirica
United States Court of Appeals
Third Circuit

DIRECT REPLY TO:

Jeffery N. Lüthi
Clerk of the Panel
One Columbus Circle, NE
Thurgood Marshall Federal
Judiciary Building
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February 7, 2007

TO INVOLVED COUNSEL

Re: MDL-1718 -- In re Ford Motor Co. Speed Control Deactivation Switch Products Liability Litigation

Louisiana Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Co., et al. v. Ford Motor Co., M.D. Louisiana,
C.A. No. 3:06-576

James R. Bixler v. Ford Motor Co., E.D. Missouri, C.A. No. 4:06-1030

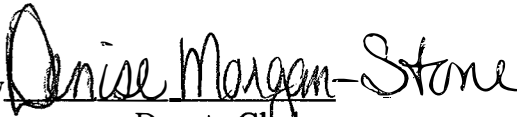
West American Insurance Co., et al. v. Ford Motor Co., D. South Carolina, C.A. No. 8:06-2435

Dear Counsel:

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of an order filed today by the Panel in the above-captioned matter.

Very truly,

Jeffery N. Lüthi
Clerk of the Panel

By 
Deputy Clerk

Enclosure

FEB - 7 2007

FILED
CLERK'S OFFICE**DOCKET NO. 1718****BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION****IN RE FORD MOTOR CO. SPEED CONTROL DEACTIVATION SWITCH PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

Louisiana Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Co., et al. v. Ford Motor Co., M.D. Louisiana,
C.A. No. 3:06-576

James R. Bixler v. Ford Motor Co., E.D. Missouri, C.A. No. 4:06-1030

West American Insurance Co., et al. v. Ford Motor Co., D. South Carolina, C.A. No.
8:06-2435

**BEFORE WM. TERRELL HODGES,* CHAIRMAN, D. LOWELL JENSEN,*
J. FREDERICK MOTZ, ROBERT L. MILLER, JR., KATHRYN H. VRATIL,
DAVID R. HANSEN AND ANTHONY J. SCIRICA, JUDGES OF THE PANEL**

TRANSFER ORDER

Before the Panel are motions brought, pursuant to Rule 7.4, R.P.J.P.M.L., 199 F.R.D. 425, 435-36 (2001), by plaintiffs in three actions to vacate the Panel's order conditionally transferring the actions to the Eastern District of Michigan for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings occurring there in this docket. No party responded to plaintiffs' motions.

On the basis of the papers filed and hearing session held (without oral argument), the Panel finds that these three actions involve common questions of fact with the actions in this litigation previously transferred to the Eastern District of Michigan, and that transfer of these actions to the Eastern District of Michigan for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings in that district will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation. The Panel further finds that transfer of these actions is appropriate for reasons expressed by the Panel in its original order directing centralization in this docket. In that order, the Panel held that the Eastern District of Michigan was a proper Section 1407 forum for actions involving allegations that certain Ford vehicles were equipped with defective or defectively-installed speed control deactivation switches. *See In re Ford Motor Co. Speed Control Deactivation Switch Products Liability Litigation*, 398 F.Supp.2d 1365 (J.P.M.L. 2005).

Various plaintiffs argue against transfer that, *inter alia*, their action should be excluded because of the absence of class allegations, plaintiffs' limited resources, or unique claims. We are unpersuaded by these arguments. Transfer under Section 1407 has the salutary effect of placing related actions before a single judge who can formulate a pretrial program that: 1) allows discovery with respect to any individual issues to proceed concurrently with pretrial proceedings on common issues, *In re Ephedra Products Liability Litigation*, 314 F.Supp.2d 1373, 1375 (J.P.M.L. 2004); and 2) ensures that pretrial proceedings will be conducted in a streamlined manner leading to the just and expeditious resolution


* Judges Hodges and Jensen took no part in the decision of this matter.

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of all actions to the overall benefit of the parties. Should the circumstances regarding any MDL-1718 action develop such that the transferee judge determines that continued inclusion of a claim or action no longer remains advisable, and accordingly the transferee court deems Section 1407 remand of any claim or action appropriate, procedures are available whereby this may be accomplished with a minimum of delay following a suggestion of remand to the Panel by the transferee judge. See Rule 7.6, R.P.J.P.M.L., 199 F.R.D. at 436-38.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, this action is transferred to the Eastern District of Michigan and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Bernard A. Friedman for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings occurring there in this docket.

FOR THE PANEL:


J. Frederick Motz
Acting Chairman