



Caution

As of: January 8, 2015 7:38 PM EST

In re Pradaxa (Dabigatran Etexilate) Prods. Liab. Litig.

United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois

November 13, 2012, Decided; November 13, 2012, Filed

3:12-md-02385-DRH-SCW; MDL No. 2385

Reporter

2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 162110

IN RE PRADAXA (DABIGATRAN ETEXILATE) PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION. This Document Applies To All Actions.

Subsequent History: Transferred by [*In re Pradaxa \(Dabigatran Etexilate\) Prods. Liab. Litig., 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 166411 \(J.P.M.L., Nov. 21, 2012\)*](#)

Prior History: [*In re Pradaxa \(Dabigatran Etexilate\) Prods. Liab. Litig., 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 140884 \(J.P.M.L., Sept. 27, 2012\)*](#)

Core Terms

common benefit, Plaintiffs', expenses, attorneys, cases, reimbursement, costs, time and expense, Funds, deposited, work product, state court, submissions, Leadership, eligible, designated, settlement, submitting, execute, terms, days, incurred expenses, monetary recovery, appointed, records, set forth, recommendation, limitations, obligations, Attendance

Counsel: [*1] For In Re: Pradaxa (Dabigatran Etexilate) Products Liability Litigation, Plaintiff: Mark R. Niemeyer, LEAD ATTORNEY, Onder, Shelton et al, Webster Groves, MO; Michael A. London, LEAD ATTORNEY, Douglas & London. P.C., New York, NY; Mikal C. Watts, LEAD ATTORNEY, Watts Guerra Craft, LLP, San Antonio, TX; Roger C. Denton, LEAD ATTORNEY, Schlichter, Bogard et al. - St. Louis, St. Louis, MO; Seth A. Katz, LEAD ATTORNEY,

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For Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GMBH & Co KG, Boehringer Ingelheim International GMBH, Bidachem S.P.A., Defendants: Beth S. Rose, LEAD ATTORNEY, Sills Cummis & [*2] Gross P.C., Newark, NJ.

Judges: Honorable David R. Herndon, Chief United States District Judge.

Opinion by: David R. Herndon

Opinion

CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER NO. 16

(ESTABLISHING COMMON BENEFIT FEE AND EXPENSE FUND)

I. SCOPE OF ORDER

This Order is entered to provide for the fair and equitable sharing among plaintiffs, and their counsel, of the burden of services performed and expenses incurred by attorneys acting for the common benefit of all plaintiffs in this complex litigation.

A. Governing Principles and the Common Benefit Doctrine

The governing principles are derived from the United States Supreme Court's common benefit doctrine, as established in *Trustees v. Greenough*, 105 U.S. 527, 26 L. Ed. 1157 (1881); refined in, *inter alia*, *Central Railroad & Banking Co. v. Pettus*, 113 U.S. 116, 5 S. Ct. 387, 28 L. Ed. 915 (1884); *Sprague v. Ticonic National Bank*, 307 U.S. 161, 59 S. Ct. 777, 83 L. Ed. 1184 (1939); *Mills v. Electric Auto-Lite Co.*, 396 U.S. 375, 90 S. Ct. 616, 24 L. Ed. 2d 593 (1970); *Boeing Co. v. Van Gemert*, 444 U.S. 472, 100 S. Ct. 745, 62 L. Ed. 2d 676 (1980); and approved and implemented in the MDL context, in *inter alia*, *In re Air Crash Disaster at Florida Everglades on December 29, 1972*, 549 F.2d 1006, 1019-21 (5th Cir. 1977); and *In re MGM Grand Hotel Fire Litigation*, 660 F.Supp. 522, 525-29 (D. Nev. 1987). Common benefit work product includes [*3] all work performed for the benefit of all plaintiffs, including pre-trial matters, discovery, trial preparation, a potential settlement process, and all other work that advances this litigation to conclusion.

B. Application of this Order

This Order applies to all cases now pending, as well as to any case later filed in, transferred to, or removed to this Court and treated as part of the coordinated proceeding known as *Pradaxa (Dabigatran Etexilate) Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2385. This Order further applies to each attorney who represents a plaintiff with a case now pending in or later filed in, transferred to, or removed to this Court, regardless of whether

the plaintiff's attorney signs the "Participation Agreement" attached hereto as Exhibit A.

This Order shall also apply to any private lien holder who obtains reimbursement from any plaintiff whose case is subject to this Order, because that lien holder is benefiting from the common benefit work performed by Participating Counsel. Such entities shall be subject to this Order regardless of execution of the Participation Agreement, as they are seeking to obtain part of the recovery obtained by a plaintiff who is subject to this [*4] Order and the jurisdiction of this Court. Counsel for private lien holder shall pay amounts consistent with the terms of Paragraph IV.(B)(3) of this Order into the Pradaxa Fee Fund and the Pradaxa Expense Fund (as those terms are defined herein). Private lien holders' counsel shall not be eligible to make a claim to receive any distribution from the Common Benefit Fee Fund or the Common Benefit Cost Fund.

C. Participation Agreement (Exhibit A)

Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein, is a voluntary Participation Agreement between plaintiffs' attorneys who have cases pending in the MDL and/or in state court. The Participation Agreement is a private and cooperative agreement between plaintiffs' attorneys only ("Participating Counsel"); and not Defendants or Defendants' counsel. Participating Counsel shall automatically include all members of the Plaintiffs' Leadership Group (as designated in CMO No. 4) by virtue of their appointment by the Court to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee, any State-Federal Liaisons that this Court may appoint, and any other plaintiff's attorneys who execute the Participation Agreement (Exhibit A hereto). All plaintiffs' attorneys who currently have [*5] cases pending in this Court or in any state court shall, within 45 days of this Order, designate whether or not they are a Participating Counsel or a Non-Participating Counsel by signing the appropriate section of the Participation Agreement. Any plaintiffs' attorney

who does not yet have a Pradaxa case filed in any federal or state court shall designate whether or not they are a Participating Counsel or a Non-Participating Counsel by signing the appropriate section of the Participation Agreement: (a) within 45 days of the date their first case is filed in or otherwise docketed in this Court via direct filing, transfer or removal; or (b) within 45 days of the date their first case is filed in any state court, if that lawyer intends to voluntarily become a Participating Counsel at the fee and expense percentages set forth herein. Failure to execute a Participation Agreement indicating that an attorney will be a Participating Counsel within the time frame set forth in this paragraph may result in higher percentages for common benefit assessment as a result of such later participation.

Participating Counsel shall be entitled to receive all the common benefit work product of those counsel [*6] who have also sign the Participation Agreement. Counsel who choose not to execute the Participation Agreement, are not entitled to receive common benefit work product and may be subject to an increased assessment on all Pradaxa cases in which they have a fee interest if they receive common benefit work product or otherwise benefit by the work performed by Participating Counsel.

The Court recognizes the jurisdictional rights and obligations of the state courts to conduct their state court litigation as they so determine and that the state court litigations may include counsel who are Participating Counsel. The Participation Agreement and this Order shall not be cited by a Party to the Participation Agreement in any other court in support of a position that adversely impacts the jurisdictional rights and obligations of the state courts and state court Participating Counsel.

II. COMMON BENEFIT EXPENSES

A. Qualified Expenses Eligible for Reimbursement

In order to be eligible for reimbursement of common benefit expenses, said expenses must meet the requirements of this section and the limitations set forth in the Participation Agreement. Specifically, said expenses must be: (a) for the common [*7] benefit; (b) appropriately authorized (as defined in footnote 1 in the Participation Agreement); (c) timely submitted within the defined limitations set forth in this Order; and (d) verified by a partner or shareholder in the submitting firm.

Time and expense submissions are to be made on the 15th of each month, beginning on November 15, 2012. Each submission should contain all time and expenses incurred during the calendar month prior to the submission date (i.e., the December 15, 2012 submission should include all time and expenses incurred during the month of November, 2012), though the first submission should include all time and expenses incurred through October 31, 2012. All time and expense submissions should be accompanied by contemporaneous records and verified by a partner or shareholder in the submitting firm. Submissions of time and expense made after the 15th day of the month following the month in which the time or expense were incurred may be rejected. Only time and expense incurred after the entry of CMO #4 by this Court appointing Plaintiffs' Leadership on September 27, 2012 (plus any time and expense incurred by those appointed to leadership in complying with the terms [*8] of CMO #1) shall be submitted and considered for common benefit consideration. Moreover, only that time and those expenses incurred for the common benefit of all cases, consistent with the terms of this Order (*e.g.*, activities associated with completing the items to comply with CMO #1), shall be considered for common benefit reimbursement at the end of the litigation.

B. Shared and Held Common Benefit Expenses

1. Shared Costs

Shared Costs are costs incurred for the common benefit of all plaintiffs. Shared Costs are costs that will be paid out of a separate Pradaxa Operating Expense Fund established and administered by Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel and funded by all members of the PSC and others as determined by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel. All Shared Costs must be approved by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel prior to payment. Shared Costs include: (a) certain filing and service costs; (b) deposition, court reporter, and video technician costs for non-case specific depositions; (c) costs necessary for creation of a document depository, the operation and administration of the depository, and any equipment required for the depository; (d) Plaintiffs' Co-Lead and Liaison Counsel administrative matters [*9] (e.g., expenses for equipment, technology, courier services, telecopier, electronic service, photocopy and printing, secretarial/temporary staff, etc.); (e) PSC group administration matters such as meetings and conference calls; (f) accountant fees; (g) generic expert witness and consultant fees and expenses; (h) printing, copying, coding, scanning (out of house or extraordinary firm cost); (i) research by outside third party vendors/consultants/ attorneys; (j) translation costs; (k) bank or financial institution charges; (l) certain investigative services, and (m) special master and/or mediator charges.

2. Held Costs

Held Costs are those that will be carried by each Participating Counsel in MDL 2385. Held Costs are those that do not fall into any of the above categories of shared costs, but are incurred for the benefit of all plaintiffs. Held costs can also include unreimbursed, but authorized, shared costs. No specific client-related costs shall be considered as Held Costs, unless the case is determined by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel to be a "common benefit case," e.g., certain bellwether cases as determined by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel.

C. Authorization and Submission

The Participation [*10] Agreements sets forth the guidelines for authorizing and submitting expenses for the common benefit which shall be followed.

D. Expenses Limitations

1. Travel Limitations

Except in extraordinary circumstances approved in advance by Plaintiffs Co-Lead Counsel, all travel reimbursements are subject to the following limitations:

- i. Airfare: Only the price of a coach seat for a reasonable itinerary will be reimbursed. Business/First Class Airfare will *not* be fully reimbursed, except for international flights, which requires prior approval by Plaintiffs Co-Lead Counsel in order to be considered for reimbursement. Use of a private aircraft will not be reimbursed. If Business/First Class Airfare is used on domestic flights then the difference between the Business/First Class Airfare must be shown on the travel reimbursement form, and only the coach fare will be reimbursed.
- ii. Hotel: Hotel room charges for the average available room rate of a business hotel, including the Hyatt, Westin, and Marriott hotels, in the city in which the stay occurred will be reimbursed. Luxury hotels will not be fully reimbursed but will be reimbursed at the average available rate of a business hotel.
- iii. [*11] Meals: Meal expenses must be reasonable.
- iv. Cash Expenses: Miscellaneous cash expenses for which receipts generally are not available (tips, luggage handling, pay telephone, etc.) will be reimbursed up to \$50.00 per trip, as long as the expenses are properly itemized.

v. Rental Automobiles: Luxury automobile rentals will not be fully reimbursed, unless only luxury automobiles were available. If luxury automobiles are selected when non-luxury vehicles are available, then the difference between the luxury and non-luxury vehicle rates must be shown on the travel reimbursement form, and only the non-luxury rate may be claimed, unless such larger sized vehicle is needed to accommodate several counsel.

vi. Mileage: Mileage claims must be documented by stating origination point, destination, total actual miles for each trip, and the rate per mile paid by the member's firm. The maximum allowable rate will be the maximum rate allowed by the IRS (currently 50.5 cents per mile).

2. Non-Travel Limitations

i. Shipping, Courier, and Delivery Charges: All claimed expenses must be documented with bills showing the sender, origin of the package, recipient, and destination of the package.

ii. Postage Charges: [*12] A contemporaneous postage log or other supporting documentation must be maintained and submitted. Postage charges are to be reported at actual cost.

iii. Telefax Charges: Contemporaneous records should be maintained and submitted showing faxes sent and received. The per-fax charge shall not exceed \$1.00 per page.

iv. In-House Photocopy: A contemporaneous photocopy log or other supporting documentation must be maintained and submitted. The maximum copy charge is 15¢ per page.

v. Computerized Research - Lexis/Westlaw: Claims for Lexis or Westlaw, and other computerized legal research

expenses should be in the exact amount charged to or allocated by the firm for these research services.

E. Verification

The forms detailing expenses shall be certified by a senior partner in each firm attesting to the accuracy of the submissions. Attorneys shall keep receipts for all expenses. Credit card receipts are an appropriate form of verification if accompanied by a declaration from counsel that work was performed and paid for the common benefit.

III. COMMON BENEFIT WORK

A. Qualified Common Benefit Work Eligible for Reimbursement

Only Participating Counsel are eligible for reimbursement for time and efforts [*13] expended for the common benefit. Participating Counsel shall be eligible for reimbursement for time and efforts expended for common benefit work if said time and efforts are: (a) for the common benefit; (b) appropriately authorized (as described in footnote 1 of the Participation Agreement); (c) timely submitted; and (d) verified by a partner or shareholder in the submitting firm.

B. Compensable Common Benefit Work Defined

As the litigation progresses and common benefit work product continues to be generated, the Co-Lead Counsel may assign Participating Counsel with common benefit work; common benefit work shall include only work specifically assigned. Examples of common benefit work include, but are not limited to, maintenance and working in the depository; review and document coding; expert retention and development authorized by Co-Lead Counsel; preparing for and conducting authorized depositions of Defendants, third-party witnesses, and experts; and activities associated with preparation for trial

and the trial of any cases designated as "common benefit trials" by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel.

C. Authorization and Time Keeping

All time must be authorized and accurately and contemporaneously [*14] maintained. Time shall be kept according to these guidelines as set forth in the Participation Agreement and approved by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel.

IV. PLAINTIFFS' LITIGATION FEE AND EXPENSE FUNDS

A. Establishing the Fee and Expense Funds

At an appropriate time, Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel will be directed to establish two interest-bearing accounts to receive and disburse funds as provided in this Order (the "Funds"). The first fund shall be designated the "Pradaxa Fee Fund" and the second fund shall be designated the "Pradaxa Expense Fund." These funds will be held subject to the direction of this Court.

By subsequent Order of this Court, the Court will appoint a qualified certified public accountant (the "CPA") to serve as Escrow Agent over the Funds and to keep detailed records of all deposits and withdrawals and to prepare tax returns and other tax filings in connection with the Funds. Such subsequent Order shall specify the hourly rates to be charged by the CPA and for the CPA's assistants, who shall be utilized where appropriate to control costs. The CPA shall submit quarterly detailed bills to the Court and to Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel. Upon approval by the Court, the CPA's [*15] bills shall be paid from the Pradaxa Expense Fund and shall be considered a shared cost. The Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel shall provide a copy of this Order to the CPA.

B. Payments into the Fee and Expense Funds

1. General Standards

All plaintiffs and their attorneys who are subject to this Order and who agree to settle, compromise,

dismiss, or reduce the amount of a claim or, with or without trial, recover a judgment for monetary damages or other monetary relief, including such compensatory and punitive damages, with respect to Pradaxa claims are subject to an assessment of the gross monetary recovery, as provided herein.

2. Gross Monetary Recovery

Gross monetary recovery includes any and all amounts paid to plaintiffs' counsel by Defendants through a settlement or pursuant to a judgment. In measuring the "gross monetary recovery," the parties are to (a) exclude court costs that are to be paid by the defendant; (b) include any payments to be made by the defendant on an intervention asserted by third-parties, such as to physicians, hospitals, or other healthcare providers in subrogation related to treatment of a plaintiff, and any governmental liens or obligations (e.g., Medicare/Medicaid); [*16] and (c) include the present value of any fixed and certain payments to be made in the future. The assessment shall apply to all of the cases of the plaintiffs' attorneys who are subject to this Order, whether as sole counsel or co-counsel, including cases pending in the MDL, pending in state court, unfiled, or tolled.

3. Assessment Amount

The assessment amount will be a total of 6% (4% for attorneys fees and 2% for expenses). The assessment represents a holdback (*In re Zyprexa Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 467 F.Supp.2d 256 (E.D.N.Y. 2006)) and shall not be altered. However, if any counsel fails to timely execute the Participation Agreement, such counsel and members of his/her firm may be subject to an increased assessment. Moreover, if a Non-Participating Counsel receives common benefit work product or otherwise benefits from the common benefit work product, such counsel and the cases in which she/he has a fee interest may be subject to an increased assessment.

4. Defendant Obligations

Upon learning of a case being filed in any state court, Defendants' Liaison Counsel shall notify Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel of such filing within 30 days of service of the complaint upon Defendant(s). Such notice [*17] shall include the name, firm name, and firm address of the Plaintiff's attorney(s) and the date of such filing, so that Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel can notify that attorney of this Order and offer them the opportunity to become Participating Counsel.

The Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel shall provide the Defendants' Liaison Counsel, the CPA, and the Court or its designee with a list of cases and/or counsel who have entered into written agreements with the PSC by executing the Participation Agreement. This same list shall be made available to all plaintiff's' counsel with cases in this MDL, as well as any other plaintiffs' counsel who signs the Participation Agreement, upon request. In the event there is a dispute as to whether a case should be on the list, Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel shall seek to resolve the matter with the particular plaintiff's counsel informally, and if that is unsuccessful, upon motion to the Court.

Defendants and their counsel shall not distribute any settlement proceeds to any plaintiff's counsel (or directly to a plaintiff) until after (1) Defendants' counsel notifies Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel in writing of the existence of a settlement and the name of the individual [*18] plaintiff's attorney (without disclosing the amount of the settlement), and (2) Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel has advised Defendants' counsel in writing whether or not the individual plaintiff's attorney's cases are subject to an assessment and the amount (stated as a percentage of the recovery) of the assessment pursuant to this Order. Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel shall share this information with Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, who shall otherwise keep this information confidential. For cases subject to an assessment, Defendants are directed to withhold an assessment from any and all amounts paid to plaintiffs and their counsel and to pay the

assessment directly into the Funds as a credit against the settlement or judgment. No orders of dismissal of any plaintiff's claim, subject to this Order, shall be entered unless accompanied by a certificate of plaintiff's and defendants' counsel that the assessment, if applicable, will be withheld and will be deposited into the Funds at the same time the settlement proceeds are paid to settling counsel. If, for any reason, the assessment is not or has not been so withheld, the plaintiff and his counsel are jointly responsible for paying the assessment [*19] into the Fund promptly.

Counsel for each defendant shall provide at least quarterly to the Court or its designee notice of the names and docket numbers of the cases for which it has paid an assessment into the Funds since the last such report. A report is not due if there are no payments made into the Funds by that Defendant during that quarter. Details of any individual settlement agreement, individual settlement amount and individual amounts deposited into escrow shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed by the CPA to Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, the PSC, the Court, or the Court's designee, unless the Court requests that it receive that information. Monthly statements from the CPA shall, however, be provided to Plaintiffs' Co-Lead and Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel and the Court showing only the aggregate of the monthly deposits, disbursements, interest earned, financial institution charges, if any, and current balance.

V. DISTRIBUTIONS

A. Court Approval

The amounts deposited into the Pradaxa Fee Fund and the Pradaxa Expense Fund shall be available for distribution to Participating Counsel who have performed professional services or incurred expenses for the common benefit. No amounts [*20] will be disbursed without review and approval by the Court, or such other mechanism as the Court may order. Specifically, such sums

shall be distributed only upon Order of this Court. This Court retains jurisdiction over any common benefit award or distribution.

B. Application for Distribution

Each Participating Counsel who does common benefit work has the right to present their claim(s) for compensation and/or reimbursement prior to any distribution approved by this Court. Any Counsel who does not sign the Participation Agreement shall not be eligible to receive common benefit payments for any work performed or expenses incurred.

At the appropriate time, this Court shall request that Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel make recommendations to this Court for distributions to Participating Counsel who have performed common benefit work. In the event that there is not agreement among Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, each Co-Lead Counsel shall only have one vote and each vote shall bear the same weight. A decision of Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel need only be made by a majority of votes. Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel shall determine on its own the most fair and efficient manner by which to evaluate all [*21] of the time and expense submissions in making its recommendation to this Court. This Court will give due consideration to the recommendation of the Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: November 13, 2012

/s/ David R. Herndon

Honorable David R. Herndon

Chief Judge, United States District Court

EXHIBIT A TO CMO 16

(Common Benefit Participation Agreement)

THIS AGREEMENT is made this ___ day of ___, 201___, by and between the Plaintiffs' Leadership

Group appointed by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois in MDL 2385 and _____ [**Name of the Firm Executing the Agreement**] (the "Participating Counsel").

WHEREAS, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois has appointed Roger Denton, Tor Hoerman, Seth A. Katz, Michael London, Mikal C. Watts, Clayton Clark, Pete Flowers, Michael Gallagher, David Matthews, Ned McWilliams, Neil Overholtz, Michelle A. Parfitt, Erin Copeland, Chris Cueto, A.J. De Bartolomeo, Sarah Shoemake Doles, James Dugan, Brenda Fulmer, Michael Goetz, Ronald E. Johnson, Jr., Ramon Lopez, Michael Lynch, John Restaino, Eric Weinberg, Michael Weinkowitz, Mark Niemeyer and Steven Davis to serve as members of [*22] the Plaintiffs' Leadership Group (also referred to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee or "PSC"), to facilitate the conduct of pretrial proceedings in the federal actions relating to the use, marketing, and sales of Pradaxa; and

WHEREAS, the Plaintiffs' Leadership Group, in association with other attorneys working for the common benefit of plaintiffs, have developed or are in the process of developing work product that will be valuable in all proceedings and benefit all plaintiffs alleging injury caused by use of the prescription medication Pradaxa (" Common Benefit Work Product"); and

WHEREAS, the Participating Counsel are desirous of acquiring the Common Benefit Work Product and establishing an amicable, working relationship with the Plaintiffs' Leadership Group for the mutual benefit of their clients;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants and promises contained herein, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties agree as follows:

I. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

A. Purpose

This Participation Agreement is a private cooperative agreement between plaintiffs' attorneys to share Common Benefit Work Product pursuant to the Order Establishing Common Benefit Fee and Expense Fund and [*23] this Participation Agreement. Any plaintiffs' attorney who executes this Agreement ("Participating Counsel") is entitled to receive the Common Benefit Work Product created by those attorneys who have also executed, or have been deemed to have executed, the Participation Agreement, regardless of the venue in which the attorney's cases are pending.

B. Rights and Obligations of Participating Counsel

Upon execution of this Participation Agreement, the Plaintiffs' Leadership Group will provide Participating Counsel access to the Common Benefit Work Product, including access to the document depository. Participating Counsel agree that all cases in which Participating Counsel has a fee interest, including unfiled cases, tolled cases, and/or cases filed in state and/or federal court, are subject to the terms of this Participation Agreement. Participating Counsel shall produce a list that correctly sets forth the name of each client represented by them and/or in which they have an interest in the attorney fee, regardless of what that interest is, who has filed a civil action arising from the use, marketing, and/or sale of Pradaxa. Such list shall include the court and docket number of each such [*24] case. Participating counsel shall also produce a list that contains the name of each client represented by them and/or in which they have an interest in the attorney fee, regardless of what that interest is, who has not yet filed a civil action. Participating Counsel shall supplement the lists on a quarterly basis and provide the lists to Plaintiffs' Co-Liaison Counsel. The initial list shall be provided within 15 days of signing this Agreement and must be supplemented every 90 days thereafter.

II. AGREEMENT TO PAY AN ASSESSMENT ON GROSS RECOVERY

Subject to the terms of this Agreement, the provisions set forth below, and the terms of CMO ___, all plaintiffs and their attorneys who agree to settle, compromise, dismiss, or reduce the amount of a claim, or with or without trial, recover a judgment for monetary damages or other monetary relief, including compensatory and punitive damages, for any Pradaxa claims are subject to an assessment of the Gross Monetary Recovery, as provided herein.

A. Assessment Amount

The assessment amount shall be six (6) percent of the Gross Monetary Recovery in each case, four (4) percent for common benefit attorneys' fees and two (2) percent for common benefit [*25] expenses, and represents a holdback (*See In re Zyprexa Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 467 F. Supp. 2d 256 (E.D.N.Y. 2006)). By entering this Participation Agreement, the undersigned understands and avers to not move, join, or otherwise support a motion that seeks a common benefit fee assessment in excess of 4%, nor a motion that seeks common benefit costs in excess of 2%, unless it should become apparent that costs and expenses in excess of 2% are required to reasonably and adequately advance the litigation.

However, to obtain the benefit of this assessment amount, all plaintiffs' counsel with a case pending in this MDL or in any state court shall execute this Participation Agreement within 45 days of the entry of the Common Benefit Order. Any plaintiffs' attorney who does not yet have a Pradaxa case filed in any state or federal court shall execute this Participation Agreement (a) within 45 days of the date their first case is filed in or otherwise docketed in this Court via transfer or removal, or (b) within 45 days of the date their first case is filed in any state court. Failure to execute the Participation Agreement within these

time frames may result in an increased assessment as determined [*26] by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead counsel.

B. Gross Monetary Recovery Defined

Gross Monetary Recovery includes any and all amounts paid to plaintiffs' counsel by Defendants through a settlement or pursuant to a judgment. In measuring the Gross Monetary Recovery, the parties are to (a) exclude court costs that are to be paid by the defendant; (b) include any payments to be made by the defendant on an intervention asserted by third-parties, such as to physicians, hospitals, or other healthcare providers in subrogation related to treatment of a plaintiff, and any governmental liens or obligations (*e.g.*, Medicare/Medicaid); and (c) include the present value of any fixed and certain payments to be made in the future.

C. Covered Cases

The assessment amount set forth above and in the related Order shall apply to all cases now pending or later filed in, transferred to, or removed to this Court and treated as part of the coordinated proceeding known as *In re: Pradaxa (Dabigatran Etexilate) Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2385, regardless of whether the plaintiff's attorney is either Participating or Non-Participating Counsel. Counsel who sign this Participation Agreement further agree that the assessment [*27] shall apply to all un-filed cases, tolled cases, and/or cases filed in state court in which they have a fee interest, regardless of the size of that fee interest.

Non-Participating Counsel are not required to pay an assessment on state court cases or on un-filed cases. However, counsel who do not sign the Participation Agreement are not entitled to receive Common Benefit Work Product, and may be subject to an increased assessment on all Pradaxa cases in which they have a fee interest if they receive any Common Benefit Work Product or

otherwise benefit from the work product created by Plaintiffs' Leadership Group and other Participating Counsel working with the MDL. Non-Participating Counsel shall not be eligible to receive Common Benefit payments for any work performed or expenses incurred.

D. Attorney Fee Lien

With respect to each client represented in connection with Pradaxa related claims that are filed or pending in any Federal court, are un-filed, or are subject to a tolling agreement, consistent with ¶ I.B. and I.C. of the associated Case Management Order Establishing Common Benefit Fee and Expense Fund (Case Management Order #___), each Participating Counsel shall agree to have [*28] Defendants deposit or cause to be deposited in the Pradaxa Fee and Expense Funds established by the District Court in the MDL a percentage of the gross amount recovered by each such client that is equal to the assessment amount. In the event Defendants do not deposit the assessed percentage into the Funds, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Participating Counsel shall deposit or cause to be deposited in the Pradaxa Fee and Expense Funds established by the District Court in the MDL a percentage of the gross amount recovered by each such client that is equal to the assessment amount. Participating Counsel, on behalf of themselves, their affiliated counsel, and their clients, hereby grant and convey to Plaintiffs' Leadership Group a lien upon and/or a security interest in any fee generated as a result of any recovery by any client who they represent in connection with any Pradaxa-induced injury and Pradaxa marketing and sales practices, to the full extent permitted by law, in order to secure payment in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. Participating Counsel will undertake all actions and execute all documents that are reasonably necessary to effectuate and/or perfect this lien [*29] and/or security interest.

E. Attorney-Client Contracts

Both the Plaintiffs' Leadership Group and Participating Counsel recognize the importance of individual cases and the relationship between case-specific clients and their attorneys. Regardless of the type of settlement or conclusion eventually made in either state or federal cases, Plaintiffs' Leadership Group will recommend to this Court that appropriate consideration will be given to individual case contracts between attorneys and their clients.

III. COMMON BENEFIT EXPENSES

A. Qualified Expenses Eligible for Reimbursement

In order to be eligible for reimbursement of common benefit expenses, said expenses must be: (a) for the common benefit; (b) appropriately authorized¹ and timely submitted; (c) within the defined limitations set forth in this Participation Agreement and associated Order; and (d) verified by a partner or shareholder in the submitting law firm.

B. Authorization and Submission of Expenses

Participating Counsel must submit expenses [*30] consistent with the Order of this Court. Expenses incurred on matters common to all claimants in MDL 2385 and assigned by Co-Lead Counsel of the MDL may be submitted for reimbursement.

C. Verification

The forms detailing expenses shall be certified by a senior partner in each firm, and such certification should attest to the accuracy of the submissions. Attorneys shall keep receipts for all expenses. Credit card receipts are an appropriate form of verification if accompanied by a declaration from counsel that work was performed and paid for the common benefit.

Cost records shall be electronically submitted to CPA and Co-Liaison Counsel on a monthly basis. Untimely submission of Cost records will result in a waiver of said costs. Unsubstantiated costs may be disallowed, as recommended by the CPA and/or Co-Lead Counsel.

IV. COMMON BENEFIT WORK

A. Common Benefit Work Eligible for Reimbursement

In order to be eligible for reimbursement, time expended must be: (a) for the common benefit; (b) appropriately authorized; (*see* Footnote 1 *supra*); (c) timely submitted; and (d) verified by a partner or shareholder in the submitting law firm. Moreover, if counsel fails to timely submit capital contributions [*31] as may be requested by Co-Lead Counsel throughout this litigation, such counsel and members of his/her firm shall not be allowed to submit common benefit time or expenses for reimbursement. Unsubstantiated costs may be disallowed, as recommended by the CPA and/or Co-Lead Counsel.

B. Counsel Involved

Participating Counsel are prohibited from sharing Common Benefit Work Product with Non-Participating Counsel, as defined herein. Counsel eligible to perform common benefit work includes Plaintiffs' Co-Liaison Counsel, Co-Lead Counsel, members of the PSC, Co-Chairs of MDL Committees, and other Participating Counsel.

C. Authorization

Time spent on matters common to all claimants in the MDL must be assigned by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel to be eligible for consideration as common benefit time. No time spent on developing or processing individual issues in any case for an

¹ For the purposes of this Participation Agreement, "authorized" or "approved" in terms of common benefit expenses and common benefit work shall mean authorized and approved by Co-Lead Counsel.

individual client (claimant) will be considered or should be submitted; nor should time spent on unauthorized work be submitted for consideration.

(1) Examples of Authorized and Unauthorized Work:

a. Depositions of corporate witnesses: Any attorney not designated as one of the authorized questioners or otherwise authorized to attend [*32] a deposition on behalf of the PSC shall not be submit time or expenses for preparing for or attending such deposition, as such attendance is deemed to be on behalf of that attorney's individual clients;

b. Periodic PSC, MDL or Full-Committee Conference Calls and Meetings: Such calls and meetings are held so that individual attorneys are kept up-to-date on the status of the litigation, therefore participation by listening to such calls is not common benefit work. Each attorney has an obligation to stay informed about the litigation so that they can best represent their clients, and that is a reason to participate in such calls and meetings. The attorneys designated by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel to run those calls are working for the common benefit by keeping other lawyers informed and educated about the case, and their time will be considered common benefit time. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent members of the PSC from submitting common benefit time for participation in PSC communications that are germane to all members of the PSC and are necessary to fulfill their PSC obligations;

c. Periodic Status Conferences: Periodic status conferences are held so that the [*33] litigation continues to move forward and legal issues are resolved with the Court. Individual attorneys are free to

attend any status conference held in open court in order to keep up-to-date on the status of the litigation, but participation by attending and listening to such conferences is not common benefit work. Each attorney has an obligation to stay informed about the litigation so that they can best represent their clients. Mere attendance at a status conference will not be considered a common benefit expense or common benefit time, nor shall participation in such status conferences via telephone be considered common benefit time. The attorneys designated by Co-Lead Counsel to address issues that will be raised at a given status conference or requested by Co-Lead Counsel to be present at a status conference are working for the common benefit and their time will be considered common benefit time;

d. Identification and Work Up of Experts: Participating Attorneys are encouraged to identify experts in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Science and/or Expert Committees. If a Participating Attorney travels to and retains an expert without the knowledge and approval of the Co-Lead [*34] Counsel, the MDL may not need or use that expert, and the associated time and expense may not be considered common benefit expenses/work, and therefore may not be compensable;

e. Attendance at Various Seminars: Attendance at a seminar that has as an agenda item about the Pradaxa litigation is not common benefit work or a common benefit expense;

f. Document Review: In the MDL, only document review specifically assigned to an attorney and authorized by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel or one of the co-chairs of the Discovery or Science Committees will be considered common benefit work. If an attorney elects to review documents

that have not been assigned to that attorney by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel or one of the Co-Chairs of the Discovery or Science Committees, that review is not considered common benefit work;

g. Review of Pleadings and Orders: Each attorney has an obligation to stay informed about the litigation so that they can best represent their clients, and review of pleadings and orders is part of that obligation. Only those attorneys designated by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel to review and summarize those pleadings or orders for the MDL are working for the common benefit, and their [*35] time will be considered common benefit time. All other counsel are reviewing those pleadings and orders for their own benefit and the benefit of their own clients, and the review is not considered common benefit work. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent members of the PSC from submitting common benefit time for reviewing orders that are germane to all members of the PSC and review of which is necessary to fulfill their PSC obligations;

h. Review of Discovery Responses: Each attorney has an obligation to stay informed about the litigation so that they can best represent their clients, and that is a reason to review discovery responses served in this litigation. Only those attorneys designated by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel to review and summarize discovery responses for the MDL are working for the common benefit, and their time will be considered common benefit time. All other counsel are reviewing those discovery responses for their own benefit and the benefit of their own clients, and the review is not considered common benefit work;

i. Bellwether Trials: While the work-up of individual cases is not considered common benefit work, in the event that a case is

selected [*36] as part of an approved bellwether trial process in the MDL, California, Connecticut, or Illinois, the time and expenses in trying the case (including work performed as part of the approved bellwether process) may be considered common benefit work at the discretion of Co-Lead Counsel to the extent it complies with the other provisions of this Order and Participation Agreement.

D. Time Keeping and Submission of Time Records

All time must be accurately and contemporaneously maintained. Participating Counsel shall keep a daily record of time spent in connection with common benefit work on this litigation, indicating with specificity the hours, location and particular activity (such as "conducted deposition of John Doe"). Time entries that are not sufficiently detailed may not be considered for common benefit payments. All common benefit work time for each firm shall be maintained in tenth-of-an-hour increments. Time submissions will be audited by the CPA.

These guidelines are intended for all activities performed and expenses incurred by Participating Counsel in MDL 2385:

1. All time submissions must be incurred only for work authorized under this Participation Agreement;
2. All time submissions [*37] must be made on the forms provided by the PSC;
3. Time and expense submissions are to be made on the 15th of each month, beginning on November 15, 2012. Each submission should contain all time and expenses incurred during the calendar month prior to the submission date (i.e., the December 15, 2012 submission should include all time and expenses incurred during the month of November, 2012), though the

first submission should include all time and expenses incurred through October 31, 2012. All time and expense submissions should be accompanied by contemporaneous records and verified by a partner or shareholder in the submitting firm. Submissions of time and expense made after the 15th day of the month following the month in which the time or expense were incurred may be rejected. Only time and expense incurred after the entry of CMO #4 by this Court appointing Plaintiffs' Leadership on September 27, 2012 (plus any time and expense incurred by those appointed to leadership in complying with the terms of CMO #1) shall be submitted and considered for common benefit consideration. Moreover, only that time and those expenses incurred for the common benefit of all cases, consistent with the [*38] terms of the Common Benefit Order and this Participation Agreement, shall be considered.

4. All time submissions must be electronically sent in the designated form to the attention of CPA and Co-Liaison Counsel so they can be reviewed, compiled, and submitted to the Court at the appropriate time.

5. Failure to provide submissions in a timely manner shall result in a waiver of attorney fees and expenses claimed for the time period that is the subject of the submission. Failure to submit time and expense records **in electronic (searchable) format** on the Excel forms approved by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, or any other method approved by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel, will result in a notice of deficiency, after which the submitting firm shall have 15 days to cure the deficient submission. Absent prior approval from Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel or special

circumstances, failure to cure the deficiency within the fifteen-day period shall result in (a) that month's submission being rejected, and (b) the submitting firm waiving compensation for the time and expenses submitted that month. Upon a determination by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel that a Participating Law Firm repeatedly fails to comply [*39] with the requirement to timely submit time and expense records in the required format, that Participating Law Firm may be barred from performing future common benefit work.

6. Time spent compiling the data for the time and expense submissions is not considered common benefit time.

E. Distribution of Fees

1. No Individual Right to the Funds: No party or attorney has any individual right to any common benefit funds except to the extent directed by Order of this Court. Common benefit funds will not constitute the property of any party or attorney or be subject to garnishment or attachment for the debts of any party or attorney except when and as directed by court order. These limitations do not preclude a party or attorney from transferring, assigning, or creating a security interest in potential disbursements from the fund if permitted by applicable state laws and if subject to the conditions and contingencies of this Agreement.

2. Court Approval: The amounts deposited in the Pradaxa Fee Fund shall be available for distribution to attorneys who have performed professional services or incurred expenses for the common benefit. The MDL Court retains jurisdiction over any common benefit award.

Each Participating Counsel who does common benefit work has the right to present their claim(s) for compensation and reimbursement prior to any recommendation to the Court. It is expected that due consideration of payment of

common benefit fees and expenses will be given to the recommendation of Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel by the MDL Court.

Dated: ____, 201__

_____**Firm Name:**

Attorney's Name:

PLAINTIFFS' STEERING COMMITTEE

Dated: ____, 201__

_____**Mark Niemeyer**

Plaintiffs' Co-Liaison Counsel

Dated: ____, 201__

_____**Steven Davis**

Plaintiffs' Co-Liaison Counsel