

Litigation

Beasley Allen Seeks DQ Pause With 12,000 J&J Talc Suits at Risk

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- Beasley Allen is urging a judge to stay a disqualification order in the Johnson & Johnson talc litigation, citing irreparable harm to the firm's more than 12,000 clients.
- The firm argues that no confidential information was shared at a mediation and the mere appearance of impropriety can't be cause to disqualify an attorney from their case.
- Beasley Allen is asking to wait until the New Jersey Supreme Court rules on the disqualification before removing the lawyers from 11 ovarian cancer trials this year.

Beasley Allen is urging a judge to stay a disqualification order in the sprawling Johnson & Johnson talc litigation and give the firm a chance to fight for cases it spent 50,000 hours bringing.

On Tuesday the plaintiff firm's attorney Jeffrey Pollock filed an emergency motion in the multicounty litigation in New Jersey Superior Court, arguing there would be irreparable harm to the firm's more than 12,000 clients suing over ovarian cancer allegedly tied to J&J's talc-based products. The firm is a co-lead counsel and has been deeply involved for more than a decade in claims J&J has said could rise to \$22 billion.

"The sheer scale of disruption is hard to even quantify, specifically given the nature of the litigation—true life and death—circumstances. How much more must these plaintiffs endure in their quest to seek justice?" Pollock, managing member of Pollock Law said in his brief.

A novel New Jersey Superior Court ruling Friday said the Alabama-based mass torts firm should be barred from the case after "associating" with a former J&J bankruptcy lawyer who, after he stopped representing J&J, met with Beasley Allen lawyers in a mediation seeking to reach a settlement through bankruptcy.

Pollock's brief says that no confidential information was shared at the mediation, and the mere appearance of impropriety can't be cause to disqualify an attorney from their case. Since the decision was published the firm can get a guaranteed review by the New Jersey Supreme Court, and they're asking to wait until the justices rule before removing the lawyers from 11 ovarian cancer trials this year—with one set to begin in March.

"Immediate disqualification would force new counsel to replicate extensive work already performed, disrupt coordinated discovery and expert schedules, and jeopardize Plaintiffs' ability to meet imminent deadlines in this MCL and related proceedings," Beasley Allen said in its motion.

A judge in the federal multidistrict litigation has scheduled a conference for Feb. 24 to address disqualification.

J&J didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The case is *In re Talc-based Powder Prods. Litig.*, N.J. Super. Ct., No. ATL-L-2648-15, motion for stay of disqualification 2/10/26.

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