IN RE STRYKER REJUVENATE & ABG II MODULAR HIP IMPLANT LITIGATION

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY

CASE NO. 296 Master Docket No. BER-L-936-13 MCL

CIVIL ACTION

This Document Relates To the Following Matters Only:

ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE

1) STEELE, Lori, et al., BER-L-2654-2014

Pursuant to the New Jersey Supreme Court's Order of January 15, 2013, MCL No. 296 (Master Docket Number BER-L-936-13) was assigned to this Court for centralized case management. Accordingly, this Court is charged with management of this MCL docket, generally, as well as the individual matters that collectively comprise the MCL docket.

On March 1, 2023, the Court entered an Order regarding certain prevised matters, which included the *Lori Steele, et al.* matter (BER-L-2654-2014). In that Order the Court noted that the identified pending MCL matters asserted claims involving *unrevised* plaintiff the spite the fact that all prior unrevised plaintiffs have voluntarily dismissed such matters without remuneration. The Court further set a March 27, 2023 hearing for the identified unrevised plaintiffs (or their legal representatives) to appear and show cause why these unrevised plaintiff cases should not be removed from the trial calendar and dismissed from the MCL docket with prejudice. Within the March 1, 2023 Order were specific instructions for participating in the March 27, 2023 hearing by telephone.

By way of the March 1, 2023 Order, the Court further permitted plaintiffs' counsel in those matters to withdraw after providing notice of the hearing to the identified plaintiffs, which was subsequently completed and confirmed by former counsel.

On March 27, 2023, the Court held a hearing at the noticed time. The Court held the hearing

telephone line open for over 30 minutes from the noticed start time. Appearing at the conference were Plaintiffs' former counsel at Searcy Denney P.A., and counsel for Defendant Howmedica Osteonics Corp. from Gibbons, P.C. Despite notice of the hearing, Plaintiff in the <u>Steele</u> matter failed to appear to show cause why her unrevised device matter should not be removed from the trial calendar and dismissed with prejudice.

Accordingly, pursuant to its inherent authority and case management duties, the Court hereby issues the following Order:

IT IS on this day of March 2023 ORDERED:

- 1. Only the following matter is within the scope of this Order:
 - LORI STEELE, et al. v. Howmedica Osteonics Corp., et al. (BER-L-2654-2014)
- 2. The law firm of Searcy Denney, P.A. has been permitted to, and has, withdrawn as counsel for the named plaintiff.

3. The identified matter is hereby dismissed with prejudice.

Dated: March 2023

HON. RACHELLE L. HARZ, J.S.C.