

FILED
AUG 12 2021
RACHELLE L. HARZ
J.S.C.

Prepared by the Court

IN RE: TASIGNA PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION,

Plaintiffs alleging personal injuries and
associate damages,

vs.

NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS
CORP.,

Defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY

CASE No. 635

DOCKET No. BER-L-5018-21

CIVIL ACTION

ORDER

THIS MATTER having come before this court as a result of scheduled case management conferences, and the Parties having failed to agree on the production of custodial documents for twenty-five named custodians sought by Plaintiffs, and the Parties having failed to agree on thirty-four search term strings, and both Plaintiffs and Defendant having agreed to the appointment of Magistrate Judge Joel Schneider (Ret.):

IT IS on this 12th day of August, 2021

ORDERED pursuant to R. 4:41-1, and with the consent of all parties, this court appoints Honorable Joel Schneider, former Magistrate Judge of the District of New Jersey as Special Discovery Master (hereinafter, "SDM") in this matter with the authorization to meet with counsel as soon as possible and pursuant to R. 4:41-4 to quickly and efficiently address the present disputes regarding the production of custodial documents for twenty-five named custodians sought by Plaintiffs and thirty-four search terms; and it is further

ORDERED that as SDM Judge Schneider may receive other discovery issues or disputes to manage during the course of this litigation, and his appointment shall continue until the conclusion of this litigation; and it is further

ORDERED that either party may object to any recommendation or opinion of the SDM by filing an objection with this court within ten (10) days of receipt of such recommendation or opinion. This court's consideration of the SDM's recommendations or opinions shall be plenary and de novo; and it is further

ORDERED that the SDM shall be entitled to communicate, *ex parte*, with this court in his discretion; and it is further

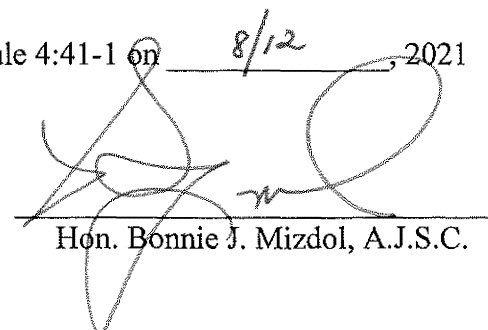
ORDERED that the SDM shall bill his time on this matter at the rate of \$800.00 per hour. The SDM's fees shall be allocated 50% to Plaintiffs and 50% to Defendant. The SDM shall bill the parties on a monthly basis, and the parties shall provide the SDM with an individual for each side who will be responsible for receiving billing and remitting payment; and it is further

ORDERED that the SDM shall not be subject to subpoena by any party. To the extent documents have been produced under a protective order, the protections afforded thereunder apply to any documents submitted to the SDM.



Hon. Rachelle L. Harz, J.S.C.

Approved per Rule 4:41-1 on 8/12 2021



Hon. Bonnie J. Mizdol, A.J.S.C.