

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

CHAMBERS OF  
J. FREDERICK MOTZ  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

101 WEST LOMBARD STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201  
(410) 962-0782  
(410) 962-2698 FAX

March 18, 2004

Re: MDL-1586

Dear Counsel:

An inquiry has been made to my chambers as to whether we plan to make arrangements for counsel who are playing "minor roles" in this litigation to be able to listen in on the April 2, 2004 hearing via teleconference.

We would like to make this opportunity available to you. However, the teleconference would be costly and given the present state of the federal judiciary's budget, the court cannot afford to pay for it. In other MDLs I have handled, counsel for plaintiffs and defendants have agreed to split the cost of teleconferences (or have agreed that the "possession arrow" changes call by call, with plaintiffs paying for one conference, defendants paying for the next conference, etc.). The difficulty here, of course, is that because lead and liaison counsel have not yet been appointed, we do not know who to contact to ascertain if the idea of teleconferencing is one in which a substantial number of you are interested and, if so, how to execute on it.

If the idea of teleconferencing the April 2 hearing is attractive to any of you and if you are willing to take the responsibility for arranging the teleconference, please email my chambers at [MDD\\_JFMChambers@mdd.uscourts.gov](mailto:MDD_JFMChambers@mdd.uscourts.gov). (We hope, of course, that whoever arranges the call will be reimbursed out of a joint fund after the fact but we cannot guarantee that). If and when the teleconference is arranged, we will post the call-in number on the website.

Very truly yours,

/s/

J. Frederick Motz  
United States District Judge