

STATE OF NEW YORK
UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH
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ANN T. PFAU
Chief Administrative Judge

SHERRY KLEIN HEITLER
Administrative Judge for Civil Matters
First Judicial District

FERN A. FISHER
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge
New York City Courts

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The clerk of the court advises that, as of the present, nine cases have been commenced in the Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County in which plaintiffs seek to recover damages for personal injury or wrongful death alleged to have occurred as a result of ingestion of the drug Zolofit ("Zolofit cases"). Two of these cases, Torres v. Pfizer, Index No. 190222/2011 and Ottis v. Pfizer, Index No. 106103/2007, have been assigned to Justices of this court (Edmead, J. and Goodman, J., respectively), and in each of the remaining seven cases a Request for Judicial Intervention has been filed, but not yet processed.

I am of the view that it is in the interests of judicial efficiency, and will promote efficient handling of these cases for the parties, if all Zolofit cases are assigned to a single Justice. Two different Justices have already been assigned to two similar cases and, by the normal procedures for case assignment of this court, still other Justices might be assigned to other such cases. The Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County has established a Center for Complex Litigation to handle mass tort and other similarly complicated litigation. Accordingly, by the authority vested in me as Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County, it is hereby

ORDERED that the two Zolofit cases listed above shall be reassigned to Hon. Carol Huff, one of the Justices of the Center, for all purposes, and it is further

ORDERED that all other Zolofit cases currently pending in Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County, or that are hereafter commenced in this court shall be assigned to Justice Huff for all purposes upon the filing of a Request for Judicial Intervention therein, and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk of the Trial Support Office of the court shall reassign the two Zolofit cases listed above in accordance herewith, and it is further


ORDERED that the Clerk of the back office in which a Request for Judicial

Intervention in a Zoloft case is hereafter filed shall assign the Zoloft case in accordance herewith, and it is further

ORDERED that a copy of this Administrative Order shall be attached to each Request for Judicial Intervention hereafter filed in a Zoloft case in this county.

It appears that the Zoloft cases are suitable for processing by the court's electronic filing system (one of the assigned cases is already in that system), and I request that they so proceed. Such processing will ensure convenient and efficient filing, service, and processing of papers for the parties and counsel and will assist the court and the County Clerk as well. Counsel shall promptly contact the E-Filing Resource Center at efile@courts.state.ny.us or 646-386-3033 for information about this program. See also www.nycourts.gov/efile.

Dated: New York, New York
January 13, 2012


Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler
Administrative Judge