

# Mass Torts Litigation Committee

## Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2020

### Opening

The regular monthly teleconference meeting of the Mass Torts Litigation Committee was called to order at 2:03 p.m. EDT on June 9, 2020 by David Schwan.

### Present

Kasey Adams, Jim Beck, Brad Drew, Natassia Kwan, Clay Massey, Patrick McGrath, David Schwan, Michael Smith, Richard Tabura, Andrew Tharp, Courtney Ward-Reichard, Joe Winebrenner, Donald Winningham III, Karen Woodward, & Michael Zogby.

### Announcements

- Joint Regional CLE 2021 – Donnie & Edd report that early planning is underway; if anyone has any topic ideas, please let Donnie or Edd know by email.
  - The planning committee is planning on a virtual conference in late January 2021.
  - There was discussion of potentially skipping 2021 and starting again in 2022, but the committee wants to keep the conference going.

### Ongoing Items

- Newsletter Update [Jim Beck]
  - Subcommittees with article commitments this quarter (Summer 2020) -- are as follows:
    - Experts & Evidence;
    - MDL & Class Procedures Practice;
    - Toxic Torts;
    - Discovery Strategies; &
    - Pharma & Med. Device
  - The due date for articles this quarter is this coming Monday, June 15, and so far, Jim has two articles in hand; he expects another one shortly.
  - Today he received an inquiry from Richie Tabura about a suggestion for a fourth article on behalf of Discovery Strategies. Thanks, Richie, for volunteering!
- Website Content Status Update [Andrew Tharp]
  - For the month of May, we received two (2) Practice Points pieces by: (1) Brian Cadigan & Corinne Fierro, on behalf of the Discovery Strategies Subcommittee, entitled “Lawsuit Over Tom’s of Maine’s Use of ‘Natural’”; and (2) Brad Drew, on behalf of the Environmental & Toxic Torts Litigation

Subcommittee, entitled “Number of Asbestos Personal Injury Defendants Climbs.” You can find these pieces and previous website articles on our webpage:

<https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/mass-torts/practice/>.

- Three subcommittees on tap for Practice Points pieces in June, which are due to Andrew Tharp by **June 25, 2020**:
  - MDL & Class Procedures Practice;
  - Pharmaceutical & Medical Device; &
  - Young Lawyers.

### **The Present**

- General Check-In
  - Several Committee members report good experiences with Zoom for deposition purposes, although they recommend against presenting a witness with whom you’re not in the room.
  - People’s general practices are slower than usual, similar to what happened right after the pandemic began.

### **Deliverables**

- May – SAC Virtual Participation; Committee Zoom Meeting [Karen];
- June – Sound Advice (Courtney Ward-Reichard); need second volunteer;
- July – Roundtable (Pat McGrath); Newsletter (Jim Beck); &
- August – Webinar (Emily Pincow/Allison Brown); Sound Advice (Brendan Fitzpatrick).

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. EDT by David Schwan. The next general meeting will be via teleconference at 2:00 p.m. EDT on July 14, 2020.

Minutes submitted by: David L. Schwan, Committee Co-Chair

Approved by: Karen Woodward, Committee Co-Chair