1	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
2	CHARLESTON DIVISION
3	
4	IN RE: LIPITOR 2:14-MN-2502
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	TRANSCRIPT OF STATUS CONFERENCE
10	FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2014 BEFORE THE HONORABLE RICHARD M. GERGEL,
11	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	Court Reporter: Amy C. Diaz, RPR, CRR P.O. Box 835
24	Charleston, SC 29402
25	Proceedings recorded by mechanical shorthand Transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.

1 APPEARANCES 2 3

APPEARED FOR PLAINTIFFS:

Blair Hahn, Esquire Christian Marcum, Esquire Frank Woodson, Esquire Eric Maynard, Esquire Michael Heaviside, Esquire Matthew Munson, Esquire Josh Mankoff, Esquire Lisa Gorshe, Esquire Beth Middleton Burke, Esquire Elizabeth Chambers, Esquire Jesse Mitchell, Esquire Casey Lott, Esquire Ann E. Rice Ervin, Esquire Kimberly Barone Baden, Esquire Jessica Perez, Esquire Chris Coffin, Esquire Frank Cetosa, Esquire David Mizeli, Esquire Jayne Conroy, Esquire Clint Fisher, Esquire Ramon Lopez, Esquire Taylor Bartlett, Esquire Chris Houd, Esquire Misty O'Neal, Esquire Eric Johnson, Esquire David Suggs, Esquire Tom Rogers, Esquire Chris Hood, Esquire

APPEARED FOR DEFENDANTS:

Mark Chetto, Esquire Michael Cole, Esquire David Dukes, Esquire Lyn Pruitt, Esquire Sheila Brodbeck, Esquire Rachel Passaratti, Esquire Amanda Kitts, Esquire

23 24

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

25

THE COURT: Okay. We are here in our In Re Lipitor 1 2 status conference 2:14-MN-2502. Good morning everyone. I notice that we have a lot in attendance here today. 3 (Interruption by phone operator.) 4 THE COURT: Let me start over again. We are at a 5 monthly status conference, May 16, 2014 in the matter of In 6 7 Re Lipitor 2:14-2502. Let's have counsel who are going to be 8 speaking identify themselves for the record, please. MR. HAHN: Blair Hahn for the plaintiffs, Your 9 10 Honor. 11 MR. MARCUM: Christian Marcum for the plaintiffs. 12 Potentially. MR. CHEFFO: Mark Cheffo for Pfizer. 13 14 THE COURT: Very good. Mr. Cole, are you going to be quiet today? 15 MR. COLE: I'm hoping to be quiet. 16 17 THE COURT: I may call upon you if I don't agree 18 with what the others are doing. I always like your good 19 judgment on things. 20 Let me sort of go through, if I might, some of the 21 issues, and then if I left stuff out or need to address 22 issues in more detail, let's -- I'll give y'all a chance to 23 identify those for me. 24 One of the questions I had was what happens if we 25 select the 14 cases and then plaintiff dismisses cases? Now,

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

let me just say that raises this whole system that we are trying to anticipate so no party can game the system, right? We are trying to randomly select cases to try. I could just pull a number out of a hat and do it, but I'm trying to do it in a way that is more deliberate than that. But we've got to have a system where neither party can game it, okay? That's important here.

And let me -- I've thought a lot about this. Ms. Boroughs and I have done a lot of thinking about how do we prevent either party from doing that? And here is sort of what I thought would be the solution: Up to August -- you know, June we'll identify seven each. By August 1 either party can -- you know, if a case is -- you know, what would happen here is the case is somehow dismissed, okay, by the plaintiff. If the plaintiff does that before August 1, then either party can select another. After August 1, if the plaintiff dismisses a defense case, the solution I think that's most rational is the defense strikes a plaintiffs' case. We've got to keep the same even number in the pool. I'm trying to deter that. I think that would be a pretty high price for plaintiff to pay to dismiss a defense case. But if you are doing that, there is a price for it. And so we would go from 14 to 12. I mean, and I think that would -and there may be issues that we can't even anticipate that will come up and we'll have to revisit this, but what I'm

trying to do is to have y'all get a hand in a pool of cases that we then, you know, get a sort of fair representation to draw the first two. So that would be my solution to that. That is sort of the August 1 is the drop dead date. And, you know, before then if the cases are dismissed, fine, but after that, those are the 14 we are going to be drawing upon to select the first and second and thereafter.

I was asked, well, should those be with or without prejudice? You know, of course I get this 41(a)(2) question all the time. And, you know, the case law is that it's very fact specific. You know, what is the reason the plaintiff is dismissing? What is the prejudice to the defendant? And I'm not going to lock myself into it. What I don't want, the plaintiffs to have the ability to willy-nilly bringing cases in and out like a deck of cards. And, you know, you may well -- when you do that, your case could get dismissed with prejudice. So I'm trying to deter the kind of gaming of the system, is all I'm trying to do.

And so I'm going to tell you I'm not going to tell you yet. I'm going to have -- if you dismiss one, I'm going to have to -- you are going to come before me after the answer is filed and I'm going to have to make a determination based on all the factors I normally consider in a 41(a)(2) dismissal.

Okay. Now, a question arose, what happens if we

have 14 cases in the pool, discovery pool, and Lexicon is not waived? And it occurred to me, you know, once that question was raised that we won't ever have that problem because the only cases that are going to be in the pool of cases that are going to be the 14 are cases I can try.

Now, let's talk about how that would be. They would certainly include the 30 cases already filed here. There are approximately 69 cases that have been directly filed. I understand y'all have some kind of understanding that you could still -- you would make a 1404 motion on those. I'm going to require y'all to -- I'm going to set a deadline for making 1404 motions, but I'm going to address those before you pick the cases on June 20th. So we are going to know those cases are in the pool that I can try, the ones that I don't agree to transfer back for inconvenient forum.

As to those large body of other cases, if you guys work out that if they are among the 14, Lexicon is waived, I'm okay with that. But I'm not having y'all have them come and go when you pull them out of the system by just saying, I'm now asserting Lexicon. It's a right of both of y'all. And if we want all 700 some odd cases in the pool, you are going to have to waive Lexicon for this purpose. I'm not telling you you need to waive it for every purpose, but if they are going to be among the 14, they've got to be cases I can try. Does that make sense to everybody? We can't have

people say, oh, no, that one now we don't waive Lexicon. I mean, we've got to have the pool.

My own preference is we would say all of them are in there because I think that gives everybody more choices. But y'all -- Lexicon is a right each of your -- there is a right here on that, and I can't -- I can't waive it. I can't make y'all waive it. So if you want to work it out among yourselves on that. But what I will definitely do is I know the 30 I can try because they are the South Carolina cases. And I know that on all the cases in which a 1404 motion is not timely filed or which I deny the motion, I can try those. And I will definitely have those for the pool, and you will know what that pool is in which y'all would pick seven each.

So any thoughts about that? I mean, what's everybody's thought about that? Mr. Hahn?

MR. HAHN: Your Honor, from the plaintiffs' perspective, the seven the plaintiffs would pick that would be part of the 14 we would certainly waive Lexicon on those and make sure that the plaintiffs were fully aware --

THE COURT: Both sides have to waive Lexicon.

MR. HAHN: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: It would have to be a mutual thing. And so that's the problem is I can't make y'all waive that, and I can't set a deadline, it's a right. You know, I can't make you -- it's not something you have to assert; it's your

right.

MR. HAHN: The issue as I see it is on the defense picks with your August 1 deadline, we would certainly have time to talk to those people. If they are going to waive Lexicon and somebody doesn't, for whatever reason, we would work through that --

THE COURT: You've got to do it by June because they've got to be -- the 14 have to be cases I can try. That's the problem.

MR. HAHN: Well, the problem then with the defense pick is we don't know who they are going to pick. So we can't talk to them about whether or not they are going to waive Lexicon.

THE COURT: We are going to set a deadline for y'all to determine what cases are in the pool because you both need to know that.

MR. HAHN: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: So I think we are going to need to work out something where y'all will have a deadline, maybe June 1 or whatever the date is, that all the cases which are triable in this District without unilateral action of either party.

Because those are the only ones, Mr. Hahn, we can have in the 14. It doesn't make any sense otherwise.

MR. HAHN: And the proposal that we've submitted, we have on June 20th we pick seven, June 23rd they pick seven

and by June 27th we would certify that their picks were waiving Lexicon.

THE COURT: No, we can't do that because that gives you a chance to -- you've got to know before y'all pick them, before you do the 14 -- just get your head around this, before you do the 14, y'all need to know what pool of cases you can draw from. You've got to know that; otherwise, it's a meaningless set of -- because of the 700 some odd cases only -- you know, there is a very limited number that -- it's a small minority of them are actually triable right now in the District without waiver of Lexicon. So y'all need to sort that out beforehand; not afterwards. Because I want those 14 to be meaningful. You've got a lot of work to do between June and August --

MR. HAHN: Yes, sir, we do.

THE COURT: -- to sort all that out. And we don't need -- I mean, that June date is a very important date for y'all to get going on the individualized discovery. So we are not -- I mean, I would think the removal between June and August 1 would be the exception not the rule. Because y'all are going to be doing all your due diligence, both of you, on those cases.

MR. HAHN: The other issue then is, which Mr.

Cheffo and I have had a discussion about, is Pfizer's right,
and does the Court view their right to waive Lexicon on cases

1.3

individually or is it a one time you are waiving Lexicon on the plaintiffs?

THE COURT: What you think, Mr. Cheffo?

MR. CHEFFO: I think as you told them a few times, Your Honor, you are basically taking the parties' concern, and you've taken some of the things that we have proposed and you've come up with a creative and effective solution. So I think the way you laid it out, it may not have been exactly what, you know, what I would have proposed, but I think what you've done is essentially say, look, both parties have to know. And I think we need to meet and confer about -- I'll tell you that, I mean, Lexicon is usually, as Your Honor knows, a defense issue. It's not usually the plaintiffs say --

THE COURT: I understand that.

MR. CHEFFO: -- don't pick my case I don't want to go to trial.

So I think what we've done in other litigations -- and I'll talk to my client about this -- typically we will say cases that are picked we will waive it as to those cases, you know, kind of blindly.

So I think you might say look, the case is in -- and this is not impossible, this is, you know, a few hundred cases -- between now and then they call their clients, explain to them and say, here is the issue, do you want to

waive Lexicon? And presumably everyone will say, sure, I want my case to go to trial.

THE COURT: Truthfully y'all probably each in your head have a pool of 40 or 50 cases y'all would like to put among the seven. Y'all are probably thinking about all of that. It's not like you are calling all 700 clients and saying, do you waive Lexicon?

MR. CHEFFO: The only thing is this: Because we are on a tight schedule, we are going to get -- frankly, we don't know anything about the vast majority of the cases.

The answer to that, and Your Honor addressed this, is June 2nd we are supposed to get the fact sheets. At that point we have a few weeks to go through essentially a few hundred or more fact sheets, and that's how we are going to pick. Now we certainly know about the 14 and 30 cases because we have records on those.

So the way Your Honor has proposed this, it makes sense, is that, you know, basically if they say, look, all of these cases are in, everybody is in, then we both have kind of a fair amount of information. It's their clients, they know who they are. But as to June 2nd, we'll get this kind of massive fact sheets, we'll go through -- and what we don't want to do is the plaintiffs to kind of self select and say, here is the 40 people who we think waive Lexicon because that's essentially a pick of their own cases.

THE COURT: I agree with that. And, you know, there is always a -- you know, it's like the tax law. They passed -- Congress passes something to fix a problem and then all the tax lawyers spend all their time getting around the system. And y'all may both find ways to game this. And if it is, I'm going to revisit me just going into a hat and pulling two out. I mean, I warned y'all I will do that if I think it's not working. So if I start having problems that people are playing games on the Lexicon issue, I'm going to revisit how our selection process is.

MR. CHEFFO: And that's why -- as I said, you know, I'll talk to my client. I know what we've done in other litigations is to kind of waive it. As long as the pool is -- essentially because we share the same resolve, I think the plaintiffs do, too, we want to find the cases that are either outliers or the kind of cases that don't tell us anything. And to the extent that we are all looking at the same collection and compilation of cases and then picking cases we intend to strike, that's how we get to this final where we get cases hopefully that are represented. And I think that process can work well.

You know, I will just tell you that the reason why I think we are concerned about this is we have been in the Zoloft litigation where we've now kind of gotten through that, but we had -- there was 25 cases, plaintiffs picked 13.

If all 12 of the plaintiffs' cases remain, we had to pick about 30 cases. So I think this addresses some of those issues because we don't have time to keep putting people in the pool.

THE COURT: Correct. And I'm trying -- it's not a perfect system. There is -- and we get some of these discovery issues, the same answer. There is nothing perfect, right? We are just sort of trying to do our best at sort of approximating something fair. And I think this system in the end hopefully will have a pool of cases that are fairly representative, that are outliers, and we'll -- you know, if we need to try them, we'll try a couple of them and get a good feel about -- you know, we'll get a good feel where the law goes on these issues.

Yes, sir, Mr. Hahn?

MR. HAHN: Yes, sir, Judge. And that's what the plaintiffs want as well. I just want to make it clear that we will have to contact all 700 plaintiffs on the Lexicon issue because we don't know which ones they are going to pick. And we will do our best to do that.

THE COURT: Well, you know, you are going to have to have a mechanism periodically through this trial to communicate with your clients. You know, normally you don't think of Lexicon as a plaintiffs' issue. I understand it certainly is theoretically. So don't overplay that one too

much. I mean, I think both of y'all are best served by coming to me and saying, Judge, everything that has been transferred here, everything -- they are all in. I mean, I think that's simpler, but I can't make y'all do that.

MR. HAHN: And I can't make the people I'm representing --

THE COURT: I understand.

MR. HAHN: My concern is I've got somebody in Kalamazoo and her cousin is a bailiff in the local court and that's where she wants her case tried.

THE COURT: Well, then she'll come out. That's what happens. But, you know, part of the burden of representing a large number of people, which y'all tell me eventually will be in the thousands, is these kinds of things where you have to get individualized authority, it's part of the burden. There is some efficiency in here but there is some inefficiency as well. You've got 21 members of the steering committee, let them earn their keep, I think 21 divided by seven isn't that bad, and tell them that the Judge assigned each of them one twenty-first of those -- of the communications.

Okay. There was a question raised about how many fact witnesses the defendant can take in the discovery pool.

And I'm going to say, I think six makes more sense to me than four. So six is fine. And I've got to tell y'all something,

if something gets in a case where there is some conflicted issue that needs more discovery, we are doing this as an approximation. I'm willing, if you've got a strong reason to do it, to allow more depositions if something gets complicated in the case where you need more information. But six is the number that we'll agree to is the standard number.

I had a whole series of things about -- first of all we had this issue about expert depositions. The plaintiff proposes that the plaintiff deliver the expert reports and then two weeks later the defendant does. And the defendant proposes do all the plaintiff reports and then the defense reports. Folks, we don't have enough time for waiting like that. The plaintiff says they are not going to take the deposition of a defendant expert in any area until the plaintiffs have been done at least 10 days later. I think the plaintiff has a better argument there. Plaintiff expert reports, 10 days later the defense expert reports, but the plaintiff experts get taken first. Otherwise, it is going to be kind of shooting in the dark about what the theories are. But I think that's the best solution for that.

And there are a whole series of other issues where the plaintiff proposes a little bit of a later date, the defendant an earlier date on when we do the pool strikes when we do pick the date, and I'm on each of those picking the earlier date, which happens to be here the defendants

proposing the earlier dates. But it's just I think getting things done earlier and getting things resolved earlier is the better course. And you will see that throughout the final Order that I'm just basically picking those earlier dates.

know, I don't yet have my jury terms for July of 2015. We do that like in November or December. We have a system for doing it. It will probably be -- this year it's July 9th. And what exactly the date will be in July 2015 is probably within a couple of days of that. And my plan is, and if all things work out fine, that I would draw a jury and I would start the trial the next morning. But one thing that could interfere with that is I have speedy trial obligations in some criminal cases that might interfere with that. But in the absence of that, we would tee it up the next morning and plan to go as long as it takes to go.

And I know this is early, anybody have any idea what kind of trial length we are thinking about on something like this on a bellwether case?

MR. HAHN: Typically in a case like this plaintiffs can put their case up within 10 trial days.

THE COURT: Okay. How about --

MR. CHEFFO: Um, I think that's fair. I mean, what we've done -- we haven't actually discussed this -- but

again, in some others with some of the Federal Courts tend to be considering time trials, even though it's outside --

THE COURT: I'm not likely to give time. I'm more likely to let you try the case. And this first one I think probably enough time to try the case.

MR. CHEFFO: And absolutely, Your Honor. And we can -- so, you know, with a time trial, I would say it's typically about three weeks, two to three weeks. If no time trial, you know, maybe three to four weeks.

THE COURT: You might make me a believer in time trials.

MR. CHEFFO: It could be six months, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Y'all haven't tried a case with me. I will not sit around that long. I will move you along. I always say I want the next witness ready right then, you know, you don't leave the jury sitting and all that.

MR. CHEFFO: Perhaps you will indulge us at some point, I don't want you to make an advisory ruling, but at some point maybe when we get a little closer we can address the issue of timed trials and highlight some of the pros and cons.

THE COURT: I've never done one, but I'm open to hearing you out on them. I just as an old trial horse myself, I just have artificial rules when your particular case may, you know, might lend itself. But I'm open to

hearing y'all out on that, okay?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. CHEFFO: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Now let's talk about predictive coding versus key word searches. Let me sort of tell you my thinking, and then I want to hear what y'all -- knowing that, what your preference would be.

Obviously key word searches are the more traditional method of doing it. If we went to a key word searches, I think the plaintiffs' broader searches here would be appropriate. If we did predictive coding, I think generally the defendant's approach is the better with one caveat: Magistrate Judge Peck's article. And there is one case where they did a consent order. They provided that after you had the sample documents, the sort of responsive/nonresponsive ones would be disclosed to the plaintiff, I thought with that modification that y'all already agreed on the plaintiff being involved in selecting the sample documents I think is appropriate. But training the device and so forth, and training the computer and so forth, I don't -- I don't think that's necessary. So predictive coding sort of the defendant approach with that one modification key word search, plaintiffs' approach.

Now, knowing that's where I would come down, which one would you want me to pick? How about you, Mr. Hahn?

MR. HAHN: I'm going to defer to Mr. Marcum.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Marcum, I knew you were here for a 2 good reason. 3 MR. MARCUM: Thank you, Your Honor. As I understand what you've just said -- I think 4 someone behind me should stand up and yell at me if I say the 5 wrong thing -- but I think predictive coding with the 6 7 modification that the plaintiffs are involved in reviewing 8 the sample sets of the documents, both responsive and 9 nonresponsive --10 THE COURT: Correct. 11 MR. MARCUM: -- I do think that would be our 12 preferred approach. 1.3 They also made reference to beginning sort of the 14 seeding process using documents from custodians they've already given us. And I think that may be okay, too. The 15 16 only thing I would say about that is the 11 custodians 17 they've given us to date have all been from the Medical or regulatory sort of side of the company. We have the issue of 18 19 about 45 percent of those documents being these slip sheets, 20 nonresponsive slip sheets. So I have those two concerns 21 about that. But I think perhaps --22 THE COURT: This is the parent/child issue? 23 That's correct. MR. MARCUM: 24 THE COURT: I'm going to get to that next. 25 MR. MARCUM: Right. Thank you.

So if we were to do that sort of seeding process using some of those prior documents, which I think could be a good approach. The other thing I would ask is that perhaps we do a little bit of a hybrid, and maybe with our search terms — they are more appropriate, we think they are and you've said that you think they are — maybe give us a couple of custodians. We can talk about the number from Marketing, you know, or from other areas of the company.

know, be adequate. It's important that the sample set, you know, be adequate. It's the foundation of the whole predictive coding. If you've got that not done well -- so I want y'all to try to work it out, Mr. Marcum. If you can't, come to me. I understand the problem and it needs to be sufficiently inclusive so what you are training the computer to do, it covers the terms. I mean, I kind of get the problem with the key word searches. If you go out there -- and we all think, when we think about key words, we think like lawyers, right? This is what Judge Peck talks about. And we all think about how somebody might put something in an e-mail where there is a whole language of e-mail abbreviations and euphemisms. There is a language within the culture of the company you don't even know about.

So for that reason, you know -- I think, you know, we really need to get the sample right. And that's why I think y'all's idea that y'all would participate in the

samples, identifying the samples, would be very important.

Mr. Cheffo, what's your thought?

MR. CHEFFO: You know, Your Honor, I actually like most of either one. I think you've said this, I need to confer with my client. Here is the issue: The particular coding, we get something new, it's novel, haven't done and the client did propose it, the main issue is what you've addressed and I'm not going to revisit that, but their view is -- to give you an example: The way it works in Safety, for example, typically they could have a meeting and somebody goes to a meeting, there is 10 different things, it could be on X medicine, this medicine, the other thing, and there is a lot of information, a lot of data because they work in these multi-disciplinary teams. The concept of sharing nonresponsive, which could be things like other litigations, completely -- with plaintiffs' lawyers who have litigation here and everywhere else is something --

THE COURT: My problem with that -- I have given a lot of thought to that. And I think you've got to weigh that -- in this job you are constantly weighing people with good arguments. It's a good argument. The problem is we've got to have a reliable system and we've got to have enough transparency that we don't -- that it's not a black hole. And I don't have enough confidence and the plaintiff doesn't have enough confidence that we know what's going on if we

don't have -- if they don't have access to that.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

So I'm not having them sit over your shoulder, I'm not having them train the machine and over and over, but what y'all mark responsive and nonresponsive -- and let me just say this, if it's privileged, we'll talk -- you can assert a privilege on those documents, on those -- the ones if you mark nonresponsive and they are privileged, you are able to assert privilege to me, okay? So attorney-client, whatever, I'm prepared to do it. But, you know, if you need to talk to your client, fine, but you need to tell me within the next 24 hours or so, end of the day Monday, which one do you prefer? You proposed -- I'm basically taking your predictive coding system with a slight, slight tweak by the guy who best recognizes them in the judiciary as knowing this system, and I think it's an important -- I think Judge Peck is right about this. And if you are now saying, well, if I do the Peck edition, then I don't want it, then I've got to weigh what I'm going to do. And I'm going to make a decision. The view you take it's not going to be dispositive to me, but I want to hear from you.

MR. CHEFFO: And that's why I said, you know, I was just expressing why I didn't feel comfortable, frankly, telling you right off the bat, because this is a little bit of a tweak. And I get what Your Honor is saying, I just need a little bit of time. Twenty-four hours is fine. I will

regroup with the right folks, advise them and we'll get back. I mean, and maybe some of this is devil is in the details, so I understand. Are we talking about trying to initially find some — do some kind of searches to be able to — and as to those kind of limited searches as we train the system, after some period of time we show them the nonresponsive, and then once we develop this predictive coding model then you would say we would just use that and we would give them the documents?

THE COURT: Right. You know, you do it multiple times, you do the training multiple times. And eventually I saw like in the sample Judge Peck had in his thing, it was like 3,500 documents in the end were ultimately used.

Whatever number is used, I don't want to get into setting a minimum or a maximum or anything. But any document that y'all produce as y'all were training it that says nonresponsive, I want the plaintiffs to be able to see it.

Because if it looks responsive to them, then it undermines the confidence we would have in the predictive coding, the training of the computer.

MR. CHEFFO: And I think I did read the decision and -- you know, I didn't study it -- I think there were some limitations and there were -- again, these are issues that I think we can talk about maybe, you know, the suggestion would be have the people who are doing it kind of not agree to

sharing that information. Again these are issues --

THE COURT: Absolutely. I'm fine about all that.

And I'm not trying to -- you know, I think there is some validity to the point, hey, these things that are determined nonresponsive, you are just dumping them over to these guys that normally wouldn't have access to them, that's a fair point to make. It's just in the end we are relying on a computer to pick documents rather than people and rather than key words and we've got to make sure that the computer has the right data protocols to do that.

MR. CHEFFO: And look, Your Honor -- and again, I appreciate Your Honor bringing the issue, saying, look, if you don't like predictive coding, then we are going to go with the larger search terms, the broader search terms.

THE COURT: In the end I'm not sure which two of those I'm going to do. If you come back and tell me, you know, the defendant now takes the view it doesn't want predictive coding, you don't get to make that final -- I make the final decision; not you. But I'm going to let y'all know my thinking so I could hear the benefit of your response before I make that final decision.

MR. CHEFFO: And I will get back to you on predictive coding. Just so we are clear -- and this I can answer today -- our view would be as a first choice, because of the complications of predictive coding -- and frankly, it

so let's go to the next one.

1.3

could take months and months and months -- we did propose that I think right now our view would be first and foremost our search terms should be what the Court goes with. We can do that quickly. I think we talked about -
THE COURT: That one in my view is not acceptable,

The plaintiff search terms versus predictive coding. Those are your two options.

MR. CHEFFO: That's what I will get back to you on.

THE COURT: Okay. Very good. And we'll hear something by the end of the day Monday on that. If you would provide it in writing, and we'll file it and the plaintiffs will then know what the company's preference is.

MR. MARCUM: May I say something else on this?
THE COURT: Yes.

MR. MARCUM: Given the aggressive deadlines that we were just talking about on other issues and how this sort of fits into that, either we agree on some aggressive schedule to get this predictive coding, and if that's what the Court ends up ruling on to get it done, or you impose an aggressive Scheduling Order.

THE COURT: And I'm prepared to do it if you tell me to do it. I would love to see a recommendation from y'all quickly on that. Because it does -- you know, the easier course -- now guys, you know, I know everybody is sort of

enchanted with predictive coding, and I do think the study suggested it's more reliable than any key word methods that have been used. But, you know, everybody take a deep breath. It may be that y'all will be just as happy with the broader search terms. So, you know, just think about that because then that's kind of done. And why don't y'all by the end of the day Monday do the same thing. Tell me what -- that y'all get to confer a bit and make a decision on that, okay?

MR. MARCUM: Fair, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: And then I do need for y'all to confer if we are going to do predictive coding because we've got to get a system of -- I mean -- and I'll be glad if y'all can't agree on a date which the sample documents will be generated and then the system, because it's going to take Mr. Cheffo's team some real time, quality time, to train the system. I mean, it's not something you do instantly.

So now let's talk about parent/child documents.

Folks, I have thought about this a lot, and here is sort of my take on it: This system, all our search here, we've got tens of millions of documents and we are trying to find the relevant ones. And in some ways we are looking for the needle in the haystack is what we are doing. And every system we have is only partially effective, key word search, predictive coding, everything else. And we are trying to design methods that somehow don't have us looking at every --

1.3

eyeballs on every document of the defendant. It's just not even physically possible to do. And it seems to me the experience we've had up to now with the production of these documents with -- that when the plaintiff has looked at them and it was obvious that the attachments or the e-mail string would have been relevant, on numerous occasions they were absolutely right. And it makes sense to me that a place you would look for relevant documents would be attachments and e-mail strings in which there is something relevant.

So to me generally I think the better course here, it's sort of weighing -- there is an argument the defendant makes about burden and all that, I think -- I've thought about that -- but I think the better argument is that the whole document and all the attachments should be produced.

Now, saying that, there was one area which I thought kind of made sense, the defendant's concern, and that was there might be attached adverse incident reports on unrelated drugs in which individual names are mentioned. And it would be a huge burden on the defendant to have to go and redact those. And I can't see how they would be -- that kind of information is particularly relevant. So the modification I would make there is if it relates to adverse event reports regarding other drugs, that if it includes personally identifying information, that that would not be subject to the parent/child ruling I would make.

Yes, Mr. Cheffo?

MR. CHEFFO: This is one, Your Honor, I would a little more forcibly ask Your Honor to consider.

THE COURT: I'm glad to hear from you. I have been reading your work. I read it a couple of times.

MR. CHEFFO: I know you have.

And really there is one thing, I think almost become background noise, it's burdensome, but here just to give you -- there has been -- in the production so far there has been 70,000 hours spent. That's just spent on review. That doesn't include the Nelson Mullins or the Quinn Emanuel time.

The way Pfizer works with this parent/child -intuitively, for example, some of these -- and I have some
statistics, we've produced hundreds of thousands of pages
from custodial files -- the way many of these people work is
that they will have a bunch of documents. Like I said, it
could be a committee, they will have 10 different things. So
you cannot get to the point of, in our view, just saying,
well, you know, redact the problems. You have to look at
every page of every attachment. And what that does is it
creates an un -- I mean, just really a Herculean, probably
four, five, six, seven times the amount of documents would be
captured, which will be literally millions and millions of
dollars.

And literally what we have here in perspective is

the plaintiffs came first and they said, look, we had 20 something documents. And we said early on, we are kind of working with search terms. We -- I think they identified 25 or 26. And we said as to 21 of them, I believe, 20, 21, you know, you are right. Part of this we said from the beginning it's the way we pull documents where that we could refine our search terms. So we not only produced those but then we modified the terms such that it would capture those. They then came back and said, well, we've looked at 200,000 pages, and you know what? This whole process is working because we found seven documents that weren't these parent/child.

And here is the deal with the seven documents, first of all -- again, I don't attribute any bad faith, just clerical error -- but three of those actually would have been caught by their search terms and our new search terms. One of them is basically subject to another protocol would have been produced. So what does that leave you with? That leaves you with over 200,000 documents, you have three documents. And as to those three, we have figured out through -- you know, the experts have looked at and said it was just a minor change, which we obviously did, in terms of, you know, the search words. It's almost like a Westlaw search, if you make it a little closer. And under the current protocol it captures every one of them under what we've used as search terms. And we've shared that with the

plaintiffs. And frankly, other than these seven documents, we haven't heard a single document.

So the idea that -- I just want to make -- the reason I'm spending a minute or two on this, Your Honor, is I don't want the Court to be left with the impression that there is kind of some, you know, kind of very fundamental breakdown. I think it's just the opposite, that this is -- I think it's .001 percent to your point. I mean, could there be documents, you know, theoretically, but we've also said a few things because when we've pulled all these documents of a custodial file in a manner of if we learn later that there is -- someone finds a document that we need to modify our search, we'll do it and we'll go back and be able to deal with it.

So the idea of spending what could be tens of millions of dollars up front when they found basically three documents which have been corrected. And here is the one thing I would say, too, it's not that these documents are completely unintelligible, right? Because what we are talking about is the quote unquote child documents. So you read the e-mail, and you say, Mrs. Smith is talking about X, Y and Z, and they attach two documents. And usually it will say in the e-mail what the things are. So, you know -- and our people have now been instructed to actually look at all of the parent e-mails and if there is any inkling that they

believe the child they are now reviewing it.

1.3

So I stand here to say this is an interim process, what we did six months ago obviously was in good faith, we thought we did the right thing, but they have brought some issues to our attention and we have changed them.

THE COURT: Let me hear from the plaintiff on this.

And particularly in light of the fact that we are going to do predictive coding or the plaintiff search, does that largely solve the problem that was identified earlier?

MR. MARCUM: I don't think it does, Your Honor.

And let me also respond to the seven out of a hundred thousand thing.

THE COURT: I thought the number was 26.

MR. MARCUM: Well, the number is. Exactly. There is that. And not only that, but that was done in sort of a sampling of the hundred thousand that have been treated this way. We haven't identified others because once we found these 25 or 26, saw this problem, we then raised this issue for the relief that we've requested here. And that's out of 11 custodians that have been produced to date and they owe us I think 26 more over the next couple of months.

And so in terms of the burden, if things keep going this way, that burden, it's going to be greater for us. And I don't know that our search terms completely fix the issue, even though we would like to say they do. But if you look at

some of the documents, some of them are hyper-technical. They are tables that were attached to e-mails that don't include some of the search terms.

One of them, for example, was a line listing of adverse event reports, which just had case numbers and some descriptions, but didn't say Lipitor, didn't say atorvastatin or any other statin. So I don't think that the search terms do completely erase this problem.

MR. CHEFFO: Your Honor? I'm sorry.

THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Cheffo.

MR. CHEFFO: Understand one thing, I mean, you know -- and I only raise this because we are creatures of experience, not that I was bound by anything others did -- we did address this in the recent litigation and the Special Master, and he came out not exactly with our position here. He said, you don't have to produce them all, but he set up, I think it was seven or eight different designations like another medicine or some code. It was something other than they don't know what they are. So it did two things. It was obviously a little more burdensome, but things like HIPPA, these adverse event, it's kind of -- we can't waive it. Your Honor probably can't even order us to just produce it. So we literally have to go through it page by page. But if we basically -- as a stop gap, what I would suggest is this is not an unfixable problem. As you've said all along, you

know, if it turns out that they continue to come back, they have issues, which I don't think they will, we can revisit this, but I think as an intermediate step what we might do going forward is as to these child nonresponsive we use a seven or eight code designation, so say nonresponsive, another medicine, you know, whatever they are. I don't remember what are there. So it does give them kind of, you know, a guidance as to generally what it is. Almost like we do on a privilege log, but --

THE COURT: But you are having to look at them anyway, Mr. Cheffo. What you are going to go through -- I mean, y'all are reading them anyway. That's -- let me say something: I think you make a very strong argument. I just -- my difficulty is that I've got to do a sort of weigh a benefit/burden analysis. And we are getting enormous efficiency by having an MDL. I mean, you are not in 60 different jurisdictions trying to litigate this. And, I mean, that's a calculation that's good. What happens is is that we need to be comprehensive. And I think it's a close call, but I come down I think you've got to produce it.

And I'm concerned about this issue with the HIPPA.

And if there are other aspects like that that are very specific that, you know, you want to raise with me, I'm glad to make other modifications that seem appropriate, but it just makes sense to me that if you've got something that's

relevant to this claim and it's in an attachment, that's a pretty good place to look. And y'all are already looking at it, and, you know, so I'm going to order that it be produced.

MR. CHEFFO: Okay. And just so -- you know, and I understand Your Honor -- but the way our process works -- and Rachel correct me -- we are actually not looking -- we are not trying to have this information and not produce this. So it's not like we are spending these tens of millions of dollars to review these nonresponsive documents, because that would be a harder argument for me to tell you that we've done the work already. The idea is, pursuant to the protocol, someone reads the e-mail, they then kind of look at the attachments. It could be a thousand pages. Someone looks at and says, this has to do with drug X and whatever --

THE COURT: I'm going shorten the time to some degree because they know they are going to have to produce it. They are going through -- you are going to -- under your system you are proposing, they were going to tell us why the attachment wasn't relevant. I just feel like you don't have to read all that, the time is going to have to be expended anyway, and put the burden on the plaintiff to -- I mean, you know, it's a little bit of the dog catching the tire here for the plaintiff. I mean, they are going to get vastly more documents to read. And at some point they are going to say, we should have listened to Cheffo and not gotten them. I

think in the end they may well do that.

But it just seems to me logical when we are trying to, you know, the benefit/burden here, that this is a place where -- and you know, the examples, I have a bunch of attachments here that were provided to me. I mean, I just, I think it's -- and I don't attribute any effort to hide the ball by the defendant. I don't see that at all, because this is an imperfect system, and in an imperfect system I think this is the best solution.

So I'm -- I've ruled that the defendant will produce those. I will tell you, I've already issued anything about HIPPA, if something of that nature as y'all begin your search, Mr. Cheffo, arises that causes incredible burden, I'm open to making other modifications like that.

MR. CHEFFO: I appreciate that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And I think in the experience you may find such things and I'm open to that.

MR. CHEFFO: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Then we have an issue of the plaintiffs' Motion to Compel the deposition transcripts. I had previously ordered that the testimony be identified. I know I've got a response I read this morning from the defendant. I ordered that the deposition transcripts be produced.

Okay.

MR. MARCUM: Clarification. Be produced without the restriction that --

THE COURT: Correct.

1.3

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$ CHEFFO: We were not trying to second guess Your Honor.

THE COURT: No limitation on the use of depositions or anything like that, it's fair game.

Okay. Future. I was asked to sort of look ahead so people could make plans for future status conferences. And let me go ahead and share some dates with you for the ones through the end of this year. June 13th is the next one, July 18th, August 15th, September 19th, October 17th, November 14th and December 19th. Let me do that again. June 13th, July 18th, August 15th, September 19th, October 17th, November 14th and December 19th.

Folks, y'all have -- and I very much approve of when you are having disputes of doing these by letter. Sometimes y'all have been submitting me things that I think y'all presume to be confidential. I've got to file these letters. So to the extent you have something you don't want on the ECF, you can send it directly to my chambers as long as you copy each other and indicate that, or you can, you know, seek to seal them. But I've got to file them. I've got to have a -- you know -- and frankly, I would just prefer when you send me a letter go ahead and file it, you know, go ahead and

1.3

do it yourself. If you don't, I'm going to do it because we need to have a record of what's going on and what decisions we make. There is an efficiency in not filing these motions but on the other hand we've got to keep a record.

Okay, folks, I've worked through my list.

Let me first ask the parties in the courtroom if

they have additional matters they would like me to address.

MR. HAHN: Can I have just a minute, Your Honor?

(Pause in proceedings.)

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. HAHN: Your Honor, just to update the Court, there were two issues from your CMO 4 Order, master pleadings and defendant fact sheets, we are working diligently to get those completed. As late as or early as this morning we have been talking about the master pleading.

There are a couple of issues that we have. I don't know if you think we should raise those with the Judge now.

MR. CHEFFO: I think we would get some guidance.

THE COURT: Okay. That would be fine.

MR. HAHN: We have a Master Complaint written and we have a short form Complaint written that the defendants have looked at, and I believe that we are if not in agreement, very close to being in agreement on those documents. The issue that has arisen is the defendants would like for all of the plaintiffs that have already filed

Complaints to go back and re-file the short form Complaints.

And I understand -- and I'll let Mr. Cheffo explain to you why -- I understand his concerns. We have concerns as well that it's potentially busy work or that we've got individual plaintiffs that have gotten caught up in the MDL, and to force them to use the short form Complaint when they actually filed in their own district originally.

THE COURT: Mr. Cheffo, why is that a benefit to the defendant?

MR. CHEFFO: You know, as I said, I'm a firm believer in the goose gander rule, and definitely do not want busy work. I think a few things. What we say is we see the benefits of a Master Complaint and a short form Complaint, and I think we would propose to the plaintiffs as to the 14 they have agreed they would do those, that makes sense. And if anybody gets added to the discovery pool, they will obviously do that quickly. And I said as to the others --

THE COURT: How many are we talking about, "the others"?

MR. CHEFFO: Basically everybody in the Complaint.

THE COURT: 700 people basically.

MR. CHEFFO: Right. And here -- and this is a little more of a practical -- it's not in any way trying to make it work, because one school of thought is you don't need a Master Complaint, the other is you have a Master Complaint.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

1.3

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Complaint assignment?

So what the plaintiffs have proposed -- and again, I think they are trying to work through these issues; we all are -- we want the Master Complaint to apply to everybody. Let's say there is 700. But we don't think we need to do the short form Complaint. And, you know, it's kind of hard when you look at what does that really mean? What about the state court? So my real concern is let's say we want to make a motion on the Michigan law and Michigan plaintiffs. THE COURT: You want a standard document in which would apply to all the cases? MR. CHEFFO: In or out. So we are saying if we are going to use a Master Complaint, then we should have everybody using it, but to have --THE COURT: That kind of frankly makes sense to me, Mr. Hahn, just so I make a ruling and we don't say, well, you know, there were 306 that didn't have that language in it. MR. CHEFFO: That's the concern. THE COURT: I just think it's -- you know, part of the benefit of the standard Complaint is really, you know, that it binds everybody when you make it. I kind of think that makes sense. MR. HAHN: Your Honor, Mr. Coffin is the one that's been heading up this issue. THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Coffin. You've got the Master

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

1.3

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. COFFIN: I did, Your Honor, and I was happy to have it.

We've had some good discussions, quite frankly, Mr. Cheffo and I, his team and our team. I think the issue is we want some efficiency, and both sides want efficiency. So if we have a Master Complaint, which I think we agree we should have, then the defendant should have the ability to be able to file a Master Answer that denies or makes whatever assertions about the allegations. I think the problem is there are going to be people who file cases that have some state law issues that fall outside of what's in the Master Complaint. But that's not really a problem the way that we propose the CMO. And that's -- here is the solution: And that is that everything that is in a Complaint that's already been filed will be deemed denied by the defendants. We are not asking them to file some separate Answer for each individual case that's been filed. We understand that they need that coverage, and we are happy to give them that coverage. But what we can't do -- what we don't want to do first is the busy work for the 700.

THE COURT: Of course I just sent them on producing millions of parent/child documents. So what is good for the goose is good for the gander perhaps.

MR. COFFIN: There is no benefit, I understand that.

1 THE COURT: Do you want me to rethink that one? 2 MR. CHEFFO: We might trade this issue, Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: I've just got to tell you, I'm very close on Mr. Cheffo on the other one, you might get me back 4 over now worried about the burden. 5 6 MR. COFFIN: Here is the other thing: Your Honor 7 could deem that every Complaint that's filed, you know, 8 conforms with the Master. We just can't do that because we don't -- I mean, we can't tell a lawyer or a plaintiff in 9 10 Idaho what they can and can't plead. 11 THE COURT: Okay. If you are going to do the 12 standard Complaint, and it will only include the straight up tort claim, it won't show any other claim that might exist 13 14 under state law. 15 Mr. Hahn, how would that be? 16 MR. COFFIN: Well, the short form does allow the 17 lawyer to indicate anything that's outside the Master 18 Complaint, any claims that are outside the Master Complaint. 19 We just have to do that because --20 THE COURT: Correct. So you are not foreclosed from 21 doing that. 22 MR. COFFIN: Exactly. 23 THE COURT: Let me just say something: Again, it's 24 one of those things where there are good arguments on both sides, but I think everyone should be required to do the 25

short form Complaint. So I'm going to rule that that's going 1 2 to be required. 3 MR. COFFIN: Even for those that are already filed? THE COURT: The ones already filed, yes, sir. I'm 4 sorry about busy work. There will be a lot of people doing 5 busy work in something like this case. 6 7 MR. HAHN: Thank you, Your Honor. I expect we will 8 be able to get a CMO to you early next week. THE COURT: Okay. Very good. Any other issues, 9 10 Mr. Hahn, you want to have addressed? MR. HAHN: 11 No, sir, Your Honor. 12 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Cheffo? 1.3 MR. CHEFFO: No, we are good. Thank you, Your 14 Honor. THE COURT: You are good. Okay. 15 16 Let me see if we can go on the -- if we have any 17 questions from folks on the telephone. Is there an operator 18 who needs to activate that system? 19 THE OPERATOR: Yes, sir. Ladies and gentlemen, if 20 you wish to have a question, you may hit star then one on 21 your touch tone phone. You will hear a tone indicating you 22 have been placed in queue. You may remove yourself from 23 queue at any time by pressing the pound key. If using a

speaker phone, please pick up the handset before pressing the

numbers. Once again, if you have a question you may hit star

24

25

one at this time. And just a moment for our first question. 1 2 We have a question from the line of Donald Edgar. 3 Please go ahead. MR. EDGAR: Is it --4 THE COURT: Yes, it is. 5 6 MR. EDGAR: Good morning, Your Honor. This is 7 Donald Edgar, California. Has the Court -- is the Court 8 aware of or given any consideration to motions to remand for transferor cases? 9 10 THE COURT: Do I have any -- I don't have any on 11 record, any motions to remand at this time. 12 MR. EDGAR: Is there any particular protocol that the Court would hope to entertain? 1.3 14 THE COURT: Hold on a second, Mr. Edgar. 15 (Pause in proceedings.) 16 THE COURT: We have received here no motions to 17 transfer. And if -- I believe they have been filed with 18 the -- with the panel for multi-district litigation. Mr. Hahn, is that correct, there is some filed 19 20 there? 21 MR. HAHN: Most of the motions were filed in the 22 transferee court. 23 THE COURT: So nothing is transferred here. If you 24 want to file a motion here for remand, there is a system in which you communicate with lead counsel. One of the earlier 25

1	Management Orders addresses that system. But you have a
2	right to make a motion for remand. And if you make that
3	filing, we will of course have it briefed and we'll make
4	decisions on them as they come.
5	MR. EDGAR: Okay. Great. Thank you, Your Honor.
6	THE COURT: Yes, sir. Other questions?
7	THE OPERATOR: Once again if you have a question,
8	it's star one. At this time we have no further questions.
9	THE COURT: Thank you very much. Ms. Burroughs, do
10	I have anything else we need to cover? Well, thank you very
11	much. Keep working hard. Our plan is on Monday after we
12	hear from all the parties, we'll issue very shortly after
13	that a new Order on this matter.
14	Okay. Good luck to you.
15	****
16	
17	I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the
18	record of proceedings in the above-titled matter.
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	Amy C. Diaz, RPR, CRR May 16, 2014
25	S/ Amy Diaz
	41