

Plan for Talc Resolution Receives Additional Support From Plaintiff Law Firm That Represents Approximately 12,000 Claimants

September 4, 2024 – Following extensive negotiations, Allen Smith of The Smith Law Firm, PLLC (“Smith Law”) has informed Johnson & Johnson (the “Company”) of his intention to immediately recommend to his clients that they vote in favor of the [consensual prepackaged bankruptcy](#) plan for the resolution of the talc claims asserted against the Company and its subsidiary Red River Talc LLC (the “Plan”). According to the firm, its approximately 12,000 clients represent most of the votes initially submitted in opposition to the Plan. Although the final vote is not yet certified by the claims administrator, the Company is confident that these additional claimants’ votes will further increase the support for the Plan, well above the 75% threshold needed for filing a pre-packaged bankruptcy, which will facilitate an expeditious confirmation of the Plan.

“We welcomed the opportunity to sit down with Allen Smith to address his concerns,” said Erik Haas, Worldwide Vice President of Litigation, Johnson & Johnson. “The agreement helps pave the way for a faster Plan confirmation process and, ultimately, an earlier recovery for all talc claimants.”

As reported in [late August](#), the Company paused the count and certification of votes on the Plan at the request of counsel at plaintiff law firms who had initially stated their opposition to the Plan. These counsel, who included Allen Smith, sought additional time to negotiate a resolution of their objections. The negotiations culminated in an agreement by Smith to recommend the Plan to his clients in exchange for the Company’s agreement to convey additional monetary and non-monetary benefits for all talc claimants in a confirmed Plan.

The new terms benefit all talc claimants and will be made public when the vote is certified. Taking into account these new developments, the Company expects the final count and certification of the Plan to be completed later this month.

“As the lawyer who started this litigation and tried the most cases, I feel strongly that the terms being offered to talc claimants are fair, and that this is the best and most realistic option available for claimants to recover for their claims in a timely manner,” said Allen Smith, Esq. of The Smith Law Firm PLLC. “The opposition to this Plan has no meaningful alternative proposal for getting their claimants a better recovery on any sort of realistic timeline, and therefore, any opposition should cease. Our clients deserve fair and adequate compensation now, and my agreement with Johnson & Johnson provides them with that. I will be recommending this proposal to each of my clients.”

Members of the Plaintiffs’ Ad Hoc Committee, which comprises 18 other plaintiff firms who support the Plan, worked cooperatively with the Company, Smith Law, and other objecting firms to improve the Plan.

“We have always believed that a consensual Plan provides the best opportunity for timely and meaningful recovery by our clients,” said Jim Onder of OnderLaw, LLC. “The Company’s agreement with Smith Law to supplement that relief is icing on the cake. I have worked closely with Allen Smith since the inception of this litigation and appreciate his efforts to address concerns and reach an enhanced and meaningful resolution, as he joins the ranks of Ad Hoc Supporting Counsel.”

Additional information regarding the Plan [can be found here](#).

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