UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
at CHATTANOOGA

In Re: UnumProvident Corp. Securities,	)	1:03-md-1552
Derivative & "ERISA" Litigation	)	*ERISA Benefits Denial Actions*

O R D E R

On Wednesday, November 19, 2003, the Court conducted an initial management conference for the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions within Multidistrict Litigation 1552 ("MDL-1552"). During the conference the Court **GRANTED** the parties' motion to consolidate the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions for pretrial purposes. Accordingly, the following cases currently pending before the Court are consolidated and shall be referred to as the "ERISA Benefits Denial Actions":

Dauphinee, et al. v. UnumProvident Corp., et al., 1:03-cv-390
Rombeiro v. Unum Life Ins. Co., et al., 1:03-cv-1000
Harris v. UnumProvident Corp., et al., 1:03-cv-1001
Keir, et al. v. UnumProvident Corp., et al., 1:03-cv-1002
Davis, et al. v. UnumProvident Corp., et al., 1:03-cv-1004
Contreras v. UnumProvident Corp., et al., 1:03-cv-1008

The Court further **ORDERS** the parties file all documents related to the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions in case number 1:03-cv-1000, pending conclusion of the pretrial proceedings in these cases. All documents previously filed in the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions shall be deemed to have been filed in case number 1:03-cv-1000. All documents relating to the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions shall be filed under the following caption:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
at CHATTANOOGA

	)	Lead Case No. 1:03-cv-1000
In re:	)	
	)	CLASS ACTION
UNUMPROVIDENT CORP.	)	
ERISA BENEFITS DENIAL ACTIONS	)	MDL Case No. 1:03-md-1552
	)	
	)	Judge Curtis L. Collier

Counsel for plaintiffs in a potential tag-along case, *Rudrud, et al. v. UnumProvident Corp., et al.*, No. 03-40070-NMG (D. Mass.), indicated the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation is likely to transfer their case to this Court in late November or early December 2003. If the *Rudrud* case is transferred to this District, the Court's order consolidating the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions shall be deemed to apply to *Rudrud* and that case shall be included in references to the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions. Further, the Court notes a related case, *Taylor v. UnumProvident Corp., et al.*, 1:03-cv-1009, is not consolidated with the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions; nevertheless, pretrial proceedings in *Taylor* will be coordinated with proceedings in the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions to the extent coordination reduces the parties' effort and expenses in resolving the case.

After a fruitful discussion with counsel, the Court announced the following schedule for appointing Lead Counsel for the plaintiffs in the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions:

(1) Attorneys seeking appointment as Lead Counsel shall file an application on or before **Wednesday, December 10, 2003**. Applications should address the matters identified by the Court during the conference.

(2) Non-applicants for Lead Counsel may file comments regarding the appointment of Lead Counsel on or before **Monday, December 15, 2003**. Attorneys who apply for appointment as Lead Counsel shall not file such comments.

(3) The Court will consider the timely filed applications and comments and will issue an Order appointing Lead Counsel for the plaintiffs in the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions within MDL-1552 on or before **Monday, December 22, 2003**.

Finally, the Court announced **December 1, 2005** as the target date for the conclusion of all pretrial matters before this Court in the ERISA Benefits Denial Actions within MDL-1552.

SO ORDERED.

ENTER:

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CURTIS L. COLLIER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE