

**ORIGINAL**

**FILED**  
NOV 26 2003  
U.S. COURT OF  
FEDERAL CLAIMS

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

**(Filed: November 26, 2003)**

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<b>IN RE: CLAIMS FOR VACCINE INJURIES</b>	*	
<b>RESULTING IN AUTISM SPECTRUM</b>	*	
<b>DISORDER OR A SIMILAR</b>	*	
<b>NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER</b>	*	<b>AUTISM MASTER FILE</b>
	*	
VARIOUS PETITIONERS,	*	
	*	
v.	*	
	*	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	*	
HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
	*	
Respondent.	*	
	*	

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**NOTICE TO CLERK and ORDER MODIFYING BRIEFING SCHEDULE RE MERCK DISCOVERY**

An unrecorded telephonic status conference was held on November 25, 2003. Participating were Michael Williams, Kathleen Dailey, and Ghada Anis for the petitioners, along with Vincent Matanoski and Mark Raby for the respondent. At the time for discussion of the petitioners' pending motion for discovery from Merck & Co., we added the following participants: Dino Sangiano, attorney for Merck, and three attorneys representing other vaccine manufacturers: Brad Wolff, representing Aventis Pasteur; Daniel Thomach, representing Wyeth; and Stacey Martinez, representing GlaxoSmithKline. The latter three counsel each requested leave to file *amicus* briefs and present argument concerning the pending discovery request. The petitioners' counsel raised no objection.

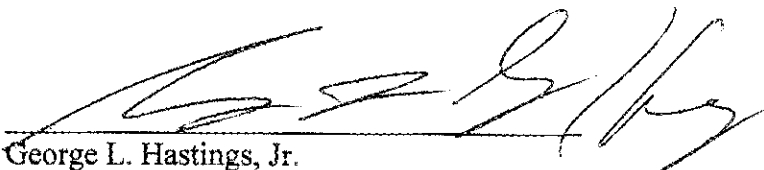
I hereby grant leave to each of the three vaccine-manufacturers listed above (hereinafter, the "*amici*") to file an *amicus* brief by December 3, 2003. Further, the due date for the petitioners' brief is hereby extended to December 10, 2003, and the due date for reply briefs by Merck and the three *amici* is set for December 22, 2003.\*

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\*All briefs shall be served on the filing dates on all of the other interested persons (*i.e.*, the respondent, Merck, and the amici) not only by ordinary service but also by either "email" or "fax."

Oral argument on this issue is hereby scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on January 6, 2004, with the *amici* also allowed to participate. (Counsel for each *amicus* will be allowed a presentation of up to 15 minutes.)

*Note to the Clerk:* I hereby grant leave to Merck and the three *amici* to file the briefs described above. Further, due to the tight time-frames, the Clerk is hereby instructed to accept briefs from these entities even though counsel may not yet have completed procedures for joining the bar of this Court.



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George L. Hastings, Jr.  
Special Master