

IN RE: VIOXX<sup>®</sup> LITIGATION

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
LAW DIVISION: ATLANTIC COUNTY

Case No. 619

CIVIL ACTION

*APPLICABLE TO ALL CASES*

***AMENDED***  
**ORDER REGARDING**  
**ELECTRONIC SERVICE**

**THIS MATTER** having been brought before the Court for adoption of procedures for electronic service in this litigation, and good cause having been show,

IT IS on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2005, ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Plaintiffs' counsel and defense counsel shall utilize the File and Serve Service ("File & Serve") provided by LexisNexis CourtLink Inc. ("LNCL") to serve pleadings (except Complaints), documents and other information in this litigation electronically. If any counsel of record objects to the use of File & Serve, he or she shall file a written objection with the Court. The In Re: VIOXX<sup>®</sup> NJ Litigation ("VIOXX Litigation") information and documents accessible through File & Serve are for the private use of counsel of record, who have served Merck with a summons and complaint in accordance with the applicable New Jersey Rules of Court, and employees of their respective law firms ("Registered VIOXX Firms"). Public access to the VIOXX Litigation using File & Serve is strictly prohibited. Non-parties may access public court documents by contacting the Superior Court of New Jersey, Atlantic County.

2. On the same day that any document (all references to a "document" include exhibits thereto, if any) is filed, the filing party shall serve a copy of that document only on counsel of record using File & Serve by (1) uploading the document electronically to the VIOXX

Litigation case at the following web address: [www.lexisnexis.com/fileandserve](http://www.lexisnexis.com/fileandserve); or (2) fax transmission. Under special circumstances LNCL will accept documents by overnight mail. Registered Users who experience such circumstances should contact LNCL, who will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the receipt of the documents by overnight mail.

3. LNCL shall make all served documents available to Registered VIOXX Firms in PDF file format, using a secure Internet website that shall be maintained by LNCL and that the parties are privately funding. LNCL shall provide users with the capability to identify documents with the following information, at a minimum: (a) the name of the filing law firm; (b) the precise title of the document; (c) the case specific docket number(s) to which the pleading applies, and (d) the date of service. File & Serve shall maintain an index of all documents served through LNCL in the VIOXX Litigation, which will be searchable and sortable to enable useful access to the documents. The File & Serve system is designed to provide timely notice to service recipients by posting documents online to a website as follows: a. electronic documents – posted within one (1) hour of LNCL receipt and b. faxed documents - posted within six (6) business hours of LNCL receipt. In order to comply with the time requirements for service of court documents under the New Jersey Rules of Court, the parties are required to transmit court documents to LNCL by no later than 11:00 PM for electronic documents or 6:00 PM for faxed documents.

4. Documents served via File & Serve shall contain visual representation of filing attorney's signature or should have typed in the place where a signature would normally appear, "Original Signature on File with Court."

5. LNCL personnel will perform all administrative functions to the LNCL system. Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP shall be the liaison to LNCL for all Registered VIOXX Firms

Service list changes. The Registered VIOXX Firms on LNCL service list in the VIOXX Litigation will not be changed (added or deleted) unless approved by Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP staff. The Registered VIOXX Firm service list will identify counsel of record, along with the parties they represent, who are to receive notification of new documents served in the File & Serve VIOXX Litigation case. Once a Registered VIOXX Firm is approved, File & Serve shall provide functionality allowing each Registered VIOXX Firm to designate an Organization Administrator to control the addition and deletion of registered Users for their firm. The Organization Administrator shall not add any person who is not an attorney or bona fide employee of his or her firm.

6. Only Registered VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Firms are permitted and able to access the VIOXX Litigation using File & Serve. Registered VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Firms will be limited to authorized court personnel, counsel of record for any party named in a VIOXX<sup>®</sup> lawsuit pending before the Honorable Carol E. Higbee, J.S.C. in Atlantic County, in which Merck & Co., Inc. has been served with a summons and complaint in accordance with the New Jersey Rules of Court, and their employees. File & Serve will provide each registered User designated by a Registered VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Firm with a username and password to access the VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Litigation case. It is the responsibility of each Registered VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Firm to inform LNCL of changes to the registered Users for that firm. Disclosure of username or password to third parties by the registered User to whom they are assigned is strictly prohibited. Registered VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Firms will only have access to those cases on the LNCL VIOXX<sup>®</sup> website in which they represent a party. Authorized court personnel will have access to all VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Litigation documents where the Court is listed as a designated recipient.

7. For documents that are served which are applicable to all cases, File & Serve provides a file entitled “All Cases” which includes a composite service list consisting of all parties and law firms from each of the individual VIOXX<sup>®</sup> cases. Counsel shall ensure that documents intended to apply to specific cases are served in the individual case file for that case. Only documents intended to apply to all VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Litigation cases shall be served in the All Cases docket.

8. Pursuant to paragraph 2, official service shall be made by transmitting documents to the File & Serve website and making them available to served counsel. File & Serve provides notice to served firms when served with documents by posting a notice of same to the File & Serve website. The File & Serve system is designed to send email notification to each Registered User, who chooses to receive email notification, each time a document served on the Registered User is posted to the File & Serve website. The File & Serve system is designed to send the email notification within one (1) hour of the document being posted to the File & Serve website. No email notice will be provided unless each user has configured File & Serve under their login and password to receive such email notification of online service. In any event, Registered Users are responsible for checking the File & Serve website for documents served to their firm.

9. Counsel for each party is responsible for providing LNCL with an accurate email address. File & Serve provides functionality allowing Users to change, delete, or add their email address.

10. Complaints must be served in accordance with New Jersey Rules of Court. Complaints shall nevertheless be submitted on File & Serve, although such submittal shall not constitute service under the New Jersey Rules of Court. Any other document served pursuant to

this Order shall be deemed to be served by mail under New Jersey Court Rule 1:5-2. The submittal of motion papers using File & Serve shall, within the meaning of New Jersey Court Rule 1:6-3, constitute receipt at the office of adverse counsel or at the address of a pro se party. Certificates of service shall state the date that a document was submitted to File & Serve and the means of transmission (electronic or fax).

11. Nothing in this Order shall relieve any party from their filing obligations imposed by the New Jersey Rules of Court; use of File & Serve is not a substitute for filing original documents with the Court. All pleadings must be filed in the Mass Tort Clerk's Office in the usual course, except as set forth in paragraph 12 herein. However, the date documents (except Complaints) are posted to the File & Serve ("authorized date") will be considered the date of filing with the Court. When filing original documents, counsel shall indicate to the Clerk in the cover letter the File & Serve authorized date and indicate that the document should be stamped "filed" and docketed as of that date.

12. When submitting to Judge Higbee "Confidential Information" under the Amended Stipulation and Protective Order Regarding Confidential Information dated December 16, 2004, the parties may submit the document to Judge Higbee using File & Serve, or by any other method as may be ordered by the Court, rather than submitting hard copies to Chambers.

13. All documents to be served in the VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Litigation shall conform to the procedures set forth in this Order and the Amended Stipulation and Protective Order Regarding Confidential Information dated December 16, 2004.

14. For the purpose of this Order, File & Serve to the extent that it provides document-handling services in the VIOXX<sup>®</sup> Litigation will be subject to this Court's jurisdiction.

15. LNCL and any of its employees, agent or contractors (“Support Staff”) may access VIOXX® Litigation documents in the ordinary course of fulfilling their project support responsibilities. Support Staff who provide document handling services in this coordinated proceeding shall submit to and comply with the Amended Stipulation and Protective Order Regarding Confidential Information dated December 16, 2004 to the extent applicable to their activities for LNCL and will use reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of documents furnished to LNCL by parties in the VIOXX® Litigation, which will fulfill their obligations under said Stipulation and Protective Order. Neither LNCL nor Support Staff shall be responsible for marking the contents of documents as confidential or otherwise restricted; counsel shall be responsible for all such designations within the documents related to the VIOXX Litigation.

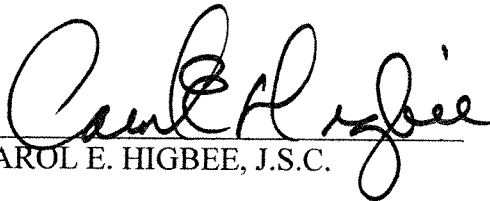
16. Each party shall bear its own cost in the use of the File & Serve service according to the then current fee schedule.

17. LNCL was chosen by counsel, who have agreed to employ this e-service and entered into their own agreements with LNCL.

18. This Order supersedes the Order Regarding Electronic Service dated January 28, 2004 and the Order Modifying January 28, 2004 Order on Electronic Filing dated May 28, 2004.

19. If electronic service does not occur because of (1) an error in the transmission of the document to LNCL or served party which was unknown to the sending party, (2) a failure to process the electronic document when received by LNCL, (3) a party erroneously excluded from the service list, or (4) other technical problems experienced by the filer or LNCL, the party or parties affected shall, absent extraordinary circumstances, be entitled to an order extending the date for any response or the period within which any right, duty or other act must be performed.

20. Usage of File & Serve by Registered VIOXX Firms and their Users shall be subject to the LNCL File & Serve terms and conditions which are available at [www.lexisnexis.com/fileandserve](http://www.lexisnexis.com/fileandserve).

  
HON. CAROL E. HIGBEE, J.S.C.