

**United States Court of Federal Claims
Office of Special Masters
1440 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005**

September 30, 2008

Dear Counsel:

Just a quick note regarding the Court's Judicial Conference scheduled for November 19, 2008 in Washington, DC. You will soon be receiving your formal invitation from the court (if you don't receive an invitation, the Judicial Conference information, including the registration form, is available on the Court's website at www.uscfc.uscourts.gov). Please do not delay in registering; in addition to the \$50 late fee for registrations received after October 29, there is a limit on the number of registrations (recent conferences have been over-subscribed.)

This year's conference has several events that should be of great interest to vaccine practitioners:

- - The night before the conference, a Reception will be held from 5:30 - 7:30 at the Dolley Madison House (which is at the corner of the Court complex). This Reception presents a unique opportunity to meet and interact in an informal setting with the Special Masters and Judges from both the Court of Federal Claims and the Federal Circuit. Past Receptions have been very well attended and a fun and relaxed event.

- - As shown in the Court's Conference brochure, the Vaccine session is scheduled for 9:30 - 11:45 am. The title for the panel is "**Vaccine Compensation Under the Act: A Mix of Science and Policy?**" The panel will be moderated by **Senior Judge Loren A. Smith**, who was the Chief Judge when the Vaccine Program first began at the court in 1988. The panelists will be **Kevin Conway**, a petitioners' counsel since the Program's inception; **Randy Moss**, an attorney with Wilmer Hale, who represents vaccine manufacturers; Dr. Paul Offit, the Chief of Infectious Diseases at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and the co-inventor of the rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq; **Marguerite Wilner**, former Vice-Chair of the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines; and **Ruth J. Katz**, Dean of the School of Public Health at The George Washington University. Previously, Dean Katz served as counsel to the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment in the U.S. House of Representative (then chaired by Congressman Henry A. Waxman), where she helped develop the National Vaccine Act. With the diverse panel, this session promises to produce an interesting and intellectual discussion on various compensation issues and the effects of those decisions beyond the courthouse.

- - The Ethics Panel at 1:30 pm includes Special Master Denise Vowell and will explore issues that arise in the use of expert testimony, which the vast majority of vaccine cases involve.

- - Lastly, the petitioners' Bar will meet at approximately 3 pm, following the Ethics presentation. A meeting room will be available at the Conference site. David Terzian authorized me to report that the meeting will include a brief presentation by the undersigned on the

processing and plans for processing the 4,500 +/- autism cases. Tom Powers will also provide an update on behalf of the Omnibus Autism Proceeding Petitioners' Steering Committee. Other possible topics for discussion and consideration include statute of limitations issues pertinent to autism cases, fees and costs, interim fees and costs, guardianship fees, structured settlement annuities, and judicial review. Other suggestions for topics may be sent to David Terzian at dterzian@rawlsmcnelis.com or by calling him at 804-782-0613. The meeting will last until the reception at 5:30 PM. Mr. Terzian urges all petitioners' counsel to attend.

Communication is critical to well-run systems. This Conference is designed for you to voice your questions, concerns and ideas to your colleagues, the government and the Special Masters. You can't be heard if you don't participate!!!

If you have any questions or suggestions about the Conference or Vaccine session, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have set up a special e-mail address to handle your questions. The address is OSM_Judicial_Conference@ao.uscourts.gov. If you need to speak directly to someone, please contact Catherine Olin, at 202-357-6343.

Thank you in advance for your support. I look forward to seeing you in November.

Sincerely,

Gary J. Golkiewicz
Chief Special Master