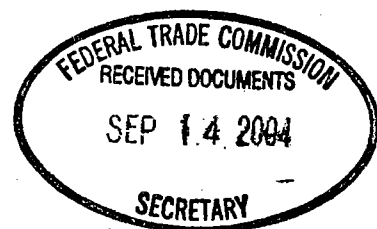


UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES



In the Matter of)
)
)

North Texas Specialty Physicians,)
Respondent.)
_____)

Docket No. 9312


**ORDER EXTENDING THE ONE YEAR
DEADLINE FOR FILING THE INITIAL DECISION**

Commission Rule 3.51(a) requires that initial decisions be filed within one year following the issuance of the complaint, but allows the Administrative Law Judge to extend the one year deadline by an additional period of up to sixty days, upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances. 16 C.F.R. § 3.51(a). The Complaint in this matter was issued on September 16, 2003. One year from the issuance of the Complaint is September 16, 2004.

The trial in this matter commenced on April 27, 2004 and concluded on May 25, 2004. Closing arguments were heard on July 21, 2004. Nearly 1,500 exhibits were admitted, 17 witnesses testified, either live or by videotape, and there are 2,958 pages of trial transcript. The parties' proposed findings of fact, replies to proposed findings of fact, post trial briefs, and reply briefs total 893 pages. The parties' final post trial briefs were filed on July 8, 2004.

The extensive record must be thoroughly reviewed. Additional time is necessary to properly develop the findings of fact and legal analysis. Accordingly, extraordinary circumstances are present. The one year deadline is hereby extended by an additional period of sixty days, extending the deadline for filing the Initial Decision in this case to November 15, 2004.

ORDERED:



D. Michael Chappell
Administrative Law Judge

Date: September 14, 2004