

United States Court of Federal Claims
Office of Special Masters

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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

July 13, 2010

Dear Counsel and Friends of the Office of Special Masters:

SAVE THE DATE. This year's Judicial Conference of the United States Court of Federal Claims is scheduled for October 27, 2010. It will take place at the National Courts Building, 717 Madison Place, NW, Washington, DC 20005. For participants in the Vaccine Program, there will be an extra day of activities at the Court on October 26th.

The activities on October 27th span the Court's jurisdiction, beginning with a panel discussion on issues of particular interest to practitioners and others involved in the Vaccine Program. The panel discussion will be moderated by Judge Margaret Sweeney, and includes two distinguished panelists from the "outside" world: Tom Goldstein, a partner at a major D.C. law firm and founder of SCOTUSblog, a website devoted to covering the U.S. Supreme Court, and Professor Joelle Moreno, a professor at Florida International University Law School who has explored the impact of science on legal controversies, including cases arising under the Vaccine Act. In addition, I will discuss data provided by the Office of Special Masters concerning significant trends under the Act and proposed responses by the OSM.

Following three additional panels on October 27th concerning other issues of interest to practitioners before the Court, the day will culminate with a reception at the Supreme Court hosted by Justice Antonin Scalia.

On the day before the conference, October 26th, we will make a courtroom available to the Vaccine Program petitioners' bar. Further information on events for the petitioners' bar will be forthcoming. In the afternoon of the 26th, there will be a panel discussion with the three autism Special Masters: Patricia Campbell-Smith, George Hastings, and Denise Vowell. They will bring us up to date on the latest decisions affecting the Omnibus Autism Proceeding as well as initiatives by the Office of Special Masters to resolve the cases in the OAP.

Following the autism panel, on the evening of October 26th, the Court will host a reception honoring Gary Golkiewicz for his 21 years of service as Chief Special Master. We all look forward to this opportunity to honor Gary and recognize his unique contribution to the Vaccine Program.

Additional information as well as a formal invitation will appear closer to the time of the Conference, but you may wish to mark your calendar and plan now to attend. The Conference will be an opportunity to learn the latest information and, perhaps more importantly, to meet (in an informal, non-adversarial setting) the special masters and others involved in administering the Program.

Additional information and registration materials will be posted shortly at www.cfcbar.org. If you wish to contact OSM directly with any questions, please feel free to call Jocelyn McIntosh at (202) 357-6344 or send us an E-mail at OSM_judicial_conference@ao.uscourts.gov.

Best regards,

Dee Lord
Chief Special Master