

## ORDER OF MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION PANEL

Order Pronounced June 14, 2022

### DESIGNATION OF PRETRIAL COURT AND APPOINTMENT OF PRETRIAL JUDGE IN THE FOLLOWING MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION CASE:

22-0300        IN RE HURRICANE ZETA LITIGATION

On April 15, 2022, Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling Inc., Triton Voyager Asset Leasing GmbH, and Triton Voyager Asset Leasing GmbH, Asgard US (collectively “Transocean”) filed a Motion to Transfer and Motion for Stay (the Motion to Transfer) pertaining to the twenty-three lawsuits each filed in Harris County, Texas, and listed in Appendix A to the Motion to Transfer.

In October of 2020, a Tropical Depression formed in the Gulf of Mexico and it eventually made landfall and it developed into a hurricane that was named Hurricane Zeta. At that time, Transocean’s *Deepwater Asgard* was drilling in the Gulf of Mexico near the Louisiana coast, and crewmembers rode out the storm on board. Twenty-three lawsuits were filed after Hurricane Zeta wherein individuals claim they were injured while on board the *Deepwater Asgard* during Hurricane Zeta.

The Plaintiffs’ filed an opposition to the stay and supplement to the opposition to the stay. Plaintiffs also filed a Response to the Motion to Transfer opposing the transfer. Transocean filed a Reply in Support of the Motion for Stay, and a Reply in Support of Motion to Transfer, BOE Exploration & Production LLC (“BOE”) filed a Joinder in Motion to Transfer and Motion for Stay, and Schlumberger Ltd and M-I LLC filed a Joinder in Motion to Transfer and Motion for Stay.

We previously granted the stay. We also notified the parties of the submission date which has now passed.

After considering the Motion to Transfer, responses, replies, and joinders, as well as the applicable law, we find that the cases are related because they involve one or more common questions of fact and further that transfer to a specified MDL district court will be for the convenience of the parties and witnesses and will promote the just and efficient conduct of the related cases.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See TEX. GOVT. CODE SEC. 74.162; Tex. R. Jud. Admin. 13.3(a), (l).

We grant the Motion to Transfer. We limit the scope of this MDL transfer to the cases listed in the Motion to Transfer Appendix and any tag-along cases.<sup>2</sup>

We appoint Judge Rabeea Collier as the Pretrial Judge and designate the 113th District Court of Harris County, Texas, as the MDL Pretrial Court.

We also lift the existing stay issued by this Panel.

CHAIR OF THE PANEL PRESIDING JUDGE DAVID L. EVANS, CHIEF JUSTICE JOSH R. MORRIS, III, JUSTICE KEN WISE, JUDGE SID HARLE, AND JUSTICE LEANNE JOHNSON CONCUR.

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<sup>2</sup> Rule 13 defines tag-along cases as follows: “[*t*]ag-along case means a case related to cases in an MDL transfer order but not itself the subject of an initial MDL motion or order.” See TEX. R. JUD. ADMIN. 13.2(g).