SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

IN RE DIET DRUG LITIGATION	Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4032
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: ALL ACTIONS	GENERAL ORDER NO. 21: SALES REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE BEEN NAMED AS DEFENDANTS

Some plaintiffs in these coordinated proceedings have named as defendants individuals who are or were employed as pharmaceutical sales representatives for one or more of the corporate defendants in these actions. Some of the sales representatives have been served with process and others have not yet been served. Some of the sales representatives who were served filed demurrers to plaintiffs' complaints, and the Court took those demurrers under advisement. Subsequently, the plaintiffs in the cases subject to the demurrers voluntarily dismissed some of the sales representative defendants from those cases, but plaintiffs in other cases have continued to name and serve sales representatives as defendants.

The Court has concluded that the orderly and efficient administration of these coordinated actions requires that issues relating to the sales representative defendants be deferred. Therefore, it is hereby ordered that:

1. Until further order of this Court, plaintiffs shall cease all efforts to serve a summons and the complaint on sales representative defendants who have not yet been served. The time requirements of the California Code of Civil Procedures and rules of court for service of process

shall be tolled for the period in which this order is in effect. If this stay is lifted, the Court will provide for a reasonable time for plaintiffs to effect service on the sales representative defendants.

2. Until further order of this Court, any sales representative defendants who have been served shall not be required to file an answer or other pleading in response to plaintiffs' complaints. If this Order is lifted, the sales representative defendants who have been served shall have a period of 30 days to answer or otherwise plead.

3. Until further order of this Court, all actions are stayed as to all sales representatives who have been named as defendants in any of these coordinated cases.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: August 4, 2004

/S/
Daniel Solis Pratt
Judge of the Superior Court