

# EXHIBIT A

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
ATTEST  
By Tarrell L. Littleton on Aug 10, 2010  
FOR THE UNITED STATES  
JUDICIAL PANEL ON  
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

2010 AUG 10 PM 2:11  
LORETTA G. WHYTE  
CLERK

UNITED STATES  
JUDICIAL PANEL ON  
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

Aug 10, 2010

UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL  
on  
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

FILED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

10md 2179

IN RE: OIL SPILL BY THE OIL RIG "DEEPWATER HORIZON"  
IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, ON APRIL 20, 2010

MDL No. 2179

J(1)

TRANSFER ORDER

**Before the entire Panel<sup>\*</sup>:** Before the Panel are four motions that collectively encompass 77 actions: 31 actions in the Eastern District of Louisiana, 23 actions in the Southern District of Alabama, ten actions in the Northern District of Florida, eight actions in the Southern District of Mississippi, two actions in the Western District of Louisiana, two actions in the Southern District of Texas, and one action in the Northern District of Alabama, as listed on Schedule A.<sup>1</sup>

The background of this docket is well known. On April 20, 2010, an explosion and fire destroyed the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig approximately 130 miles southeast of New Orleans and approximately 50 miles from the Mississippi River delta. The explosion killed eleven of the 126 workers on the rig, which eventually sank in approximately 5,000 feet of water. Through mid-July, crude oil gushed from the site in unprecedented amounts. Although the leaking well is now capped, the spill's effects are widespread, with oil reported to have come ashore in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and, most recently, Texas. Its full impact on the lives and livelihoods of tens of thousands of Americans, especially those living in or near the Gulf of Mexico, is as yet undetermined.

I.

Plaintiffs in the Eastern District of Louisiana *Cooper* and *Rodrigue* actions have separately moved, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, to centralize these actions in the Eastern District of Louisiana, while plaintiff in the Eastern District of Louisiana *Nova Affiliated* action and common defendant BP Exploration & Production Inc. (BP) have separately moved for centralization in the Southern District of Texas.

\* Judge Damrell took no part in the disposition of this matter.

<sup>1</sup> The Panel has been notified of more than 200 additional related actions. Those actions and any other related actions are potential tag-along actions. See Rules 7.4 and 7.5, R.P.J.P.M.L., 199 F.R.D. 425, 435-36 (2001).

\_\_\_ Fee \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Process \_\_\_  
x Dktd \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ CtRmDep \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Doc. No. \_\_\_

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Dozens of parties submitted responses to the four motions. Almost all responding parties support centralization. Responding defendants all favor centralization in the Southern District of Texas, whereas the positions of responding plaintiffs are more varied with respect to an appropriate transferee district. While many plaintiffs support centralization in the Eastern District of Louisiana,<sup>2</sup> other plaintiffs argue in favor of selection of the Northern District of Alabama, the Southern District of Alabama, the Middle District of Florida, the Northern District of Florida, the Southern District of Florida, the Western District of Louisiana, the Southern District of Mississippi, the District of South Carolina, or the Southern District of Texas. In addition, a small number of other plaintiffs variously argue in favor of other approaches: that the Panel centralize the docket in the Eastern District of Louisiana, but assign it to Judge Shira Ann Scheindlin of the Southern District of New York, who would then sit in the Eastern District of Louisiana by designation;<sup>3</sup> that the Panel divide the docket among three districts; or that the Panel appoint a judge from one of the Florida districts to “ride circuit” among the various involved localities.

Some responding plaintiffs, while supporting centralization generally, argue against including any of the relatively few personal injury/wrongful death actions in an MDL that might be comprised largely of putative class actions seeking recovery for property damage and other economic losses. Of the 77 constituent actions, two are wrongful death actions (Eastern District of Louisiana *Roshto* and *Jones*) and one is a personal injury action (Eastern District of Louisiana *Williams*). Plaintiffs in *Roshto* and *Williams* submitted briefs supporting inclusion of the personal injury/wrongful death actions in centralized proceedings, as did responding defendants, but plaintiff in *Jones* opposes such inclusion.

A few responding parties oppose centralization altogether. They essentially argue that the involved actions are all subject to dismissal for failure to comply with the Oil Pollution Act’s (OPA) presentment requirement, *see* 33 U.S.C. § 2713; and that, in any event, because the OPA is a strict liability statute, the only issue in dispute (at least as to the BP defendants) is the amount of damages to which each claimant is entitled, which, they argue, requires an inherently individualized inquiry and is thus inappropriate for MDL treatment. These parties argue that, at the very least, the Panel should carve out the OPA claims from centralized proceedings.

The briefing and oral argument have contributed greatly to the Panel’s deliberations. This is a reminder that although the Panel tries to reach its decisions in a timely fashion, it does so only after affording the parties sufficient time to present their views, both through written submissions, and, in the case of motions seeking the creation of new MDLs, through oral argument. Even in the face of catastrophic circumstances such as these, little is to be gained from hasty decision-making.

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<sup>2</sup> The Panel also received *amici curiae* responses in support of selection of the Eastern District of Louisiana from the United States of America, the State of Louisiana, and the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans.

<sup>3</sup> *See* 28 U.S.C. 1407(b).

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## II.

The actions before the Panel indisputably share factual issues concerning the cause (or causes) of the Deepwater Horizon explosion/fire and the role, if any, that each defendant played in it. Centralization under Section 1407 will eliminate duplicative discovery, prevent inconsistent pretrial rulings, including rulings on class certification and other issues, and conserve the resources of the parties, their counsel, and the judiciary. Centralization may also facilitate closer coordination with Kenneth Feinberg's administration of the BP compensation fund. In all these respects, centralization will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the more just and efficient conduct of these cases, taken as a whole.

We also conclude that it makes sense to include the personal injury/wrongful death actions in the MDL. These actions do overlap factually with the other actions in this docket, and, indeed, plaintiffs in two of the three constituent personal injury/wrongful death actions specifically argue in favor of such inclusion, as do responding defendants. While these actions will require some amount of individualized discovery, in other respects they overlap with those that pursue only economic damage claims. The transferee judge has broad discretion to employ any number of pretrial techniques – such as establishing separate discovery and/or motion tracks – to address any differences among the cases and efficiently manage the various aspects of this litigation. *See, e.g., In re Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc., Securities & Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) Litigation*, 598 F.Supp.2d 1362, 1364 (J.P.M.L. 2009).

Similarly, we do not find any strong reasons for separate treatment of claims brought under the OPA. In our judgment, carving out the OPA claims would only complicate matters, and denying centralization altogether is not a viable option. To the extent that non-compliance with the OPA's presentment requirement becomes an issue, failure to include OPA claims in centralized proceedings would raise the prospect of multiple inconsistent rulings on that issue. *See In re: National Arbitration Forum Antitrust Litigation*, 682 F.Supp.2d 1343, 1345 (J.P.M.L. 2010).

Finally, the limitation proceeding brought by certain Transocean entities and currently pending in the Southern District of Texas is a potential tag-along action in this docket, and will be included on a forthcoming conditional transfer order (CTO). Although our preliminary assessment is that the action should be included in the centralized proceedings, we do not prejudge the matter. Once the CTO issues, the parties are free to object to the action's transfer. *See Rule 7.4, R.P.J.P.M.L.*, 199 F.R.D. at 435-36.

## III.

The parties have advanced sound reasons for a large number of possible transferee districts and judges. Upon careful consideration, however, we have settled upon the Eastern District of Louisiana as the most appropriate district for this litigation. Without discounting the spill's effects on other states, if there is a geographic and psychological "center of gravity" in this docket, then the Eastern District of Louisiana is closest to it. Considering all of the applicable factors, we have asked Judge Carl J. Barbier to serve as transferee judge. He has had a distinguished career as an attorney

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and now as a jurist. Moreover, during his twelve years on the bench, Judge Barbier has gained considerable MDL experience, and has been already actively managing dozens of cases in this docket. We have every confidence that he is well prepared to handle a litigation of this magnitude.

Some parties have expressed concern that recusals among Eastern District of Louisiana judges unduly limit our choices, and that even Judge Barbier may be subject to recusal. Notwithstanding these concerns, the Panel is quite comfortable with its choice. Judge Barbier is an exceptional jurist, who would be a wise selection for this assignment even had those other judges in the district been available. Moreover, the Fifth Circuit recently denied the petition of certain defendants for a writ of mandamus directing Judge Barbier to recuse himself.<sup>4</sup>

Other parties have made the related suggestion that certain suggested transferee districts (including the Eastern District of Louisiana and the Southern District of Texas) might not present a level playing field for all parties and that we should search elsewhere for a “neutral” judge. With all due respect, we disagree with the premise of this argument. When federal judges assume the bench, all take an oath to administer justice in a fair and impartial manner to all parties equally. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 453. That oath applies just as much to a multidistrict litigation involving hundreds (or thousands) of actions and scores of parties as it does to a single civil action between one plaintiff and one defendant. Our experience is that transferee judges impartially carry out their duties and make tough decisions time and time again, and that they uniformly do so without engaging in any location-specific favoritism.

In selecting Judge Barbier, we also decline the suggestion that, given the litigation’s scope and complexity, we should assign the docket to multiple transferee judges. Our experience teaches that most, if not all, multidistrict proceedings do not require the oversight of more than one able and energetic jurist, provided that he or she has the time and resources to handle the assignment. Moreover, Judge Barbier has at his disposal all the many assets of the Eastern District of Louisiana, which include magistrate judges and a clerk’s office accustomed to handling large MDLs. Judge Barbier may also choose to employ special masters and other case administration tools to facilitate certain aspects of the litigation. *See* Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth §§ 11.52, 11.53 (2004).

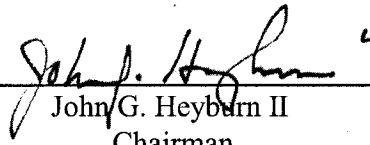
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<sup>4</sup> The Panel, of course, has no authority to determine whether a particular judge should recuse himself or herself from presiding over a particular MDL.

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, the actions listed on Schedule A and pending outside the Eastern District of Louisiana are transferred to the Eastern District of Louisiana and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Carl J. Barbier for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings with the actions pending in that district and listed on Schedule A.

PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John G. Heyburn II  
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Robert L. Miller, Jr.  
David R. Hansen  
Frank C. Damrell, Jr.\*

Kathryn H. Vratil  
W. Royal Furgeson, Jr.  
Barbara S. Jones

**IN RE: OIL SPILL BY THE OIL RIG "DEEPWATER HORIZON"  
IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, ON APRIL 20, 2010**

MDL No. 2179

**SCHEDULE A**

Northern District of Alabama

Ben Chenault, etc. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1139

Southern District of Alabama

James F. Mason, Jr., etc. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-191  
Peter Burke v. BP Corporation of North of America, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-195  
Shannon Trahan v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-198  
Jud Smith, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-200  
Billy Wilkerson, et al. v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-201  
Fishtrap Charters, LLC, et al. v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-202  
Fort Morgan Sales, Rentals & Development, Inc., et al. v. Transocean  
Holdings, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-203  
Bon Secour Fisheries, Inc., et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-206  
George C. Simpson v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-210  
Gulf Shores West Beach Investments, LLC v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al.,  
C.A. No. 1:10-213  
Billy's Seafood, Inc. v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-215  
David Meyer, et al. v. BP America, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-216  
Orange Beach Marina, Inc., et al. v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-217  
Robert V. Pendarvis, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-218  
Fran Hopkins, et al. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-221  
Steven Lavigne, et al. v. British Petroleum, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-222  
Original Oyster House, Inc., et al. v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-223  
Blue Water Yacht Sales & Services, Inc., et al. v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al.,  
C.A. No. 1:10-224  
Marine Horizons, Inc., et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-227  
George Jett v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-228  
Captain Edward Lockridge v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-233  
Terry Drawdy, et al. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-235  
Sea Eagle Fisheries, Inc., et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-238

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**MDL No. 2179 Schedule A (Continued)**

Northern District of Florida

John T. Harris v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 3:10-129  
Ocean Reef Realty, Inc. v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 3:10-132  
Michael Salley v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 3:10-133  
Nicholas Harris, et al. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 3:10-134  
Charles Douglass, et al. v. Transocean Holdings, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 3:10-136  
Joe Patti Seafood Co., et al. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 3:10-137  
Dewey Destin, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 3:10-141  
Stacey P. Walsh v. British Petroleum, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 3:10-143  
George Weems Ward, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 4:10-157  
Water Street Seafood, Inc., et al. v. BP Products North America Inc., et al.,  
C.A. No. 4:10-162

Eastern District of Louisiana

Shane Roshto, et al. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1156  
Michelle Jones, etc. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1196  
Troy Wetzel, et al. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1222  
Acy J. Cooper, Jr., et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1229  
Michael Williams v. Transocean, Ltd, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1243  
Darleen Jacobs Levy v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1245  
James J. Friloux, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1246  
Ben Robin, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1248  
Michael Ivic, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1249  
Felix Alexie, Jr. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1250  
Ray Vath, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1273  
Charles Robin, III, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1295  
Bill's Oyster House, LLC, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1308  
Nova Affiliated, S.A. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1313  
Robin Seafood Co., Inc., et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1314  
Bryan C. Carrone, et al. v. BP Products North America, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1315  
George Barisich, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1316  
Eugene B. Dugas, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1322  
George Barisich, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1324  
Brent J. Rodrigue, Sr., et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1325  
T&D Fishery, LLC, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1332  
Fish Commander, LLC v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1339  
Cajun Offshore Charters, LLC v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1341  
Gulf Crown Seafood, Inc. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1344  
Joseph Kunstler, et al. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1345



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**MDL No. 2179 Schedule A (Continued)**

Eastern District of Louisiana (Continued)

Isadore Crepple v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1346  
Eric Dumas, etc. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1348  
William D. Gregoire, et al. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1351  
Robroy J. Terrebonne v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1352  
Curtis Silver, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1387  
Tom Garner v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-1482

Western District of Louisiana

Matthews Gaskins, Jr. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 2:10-738  
Ellis Schouest, III, et al. v. BP Products North America, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 6:10-727

Southern District of Mississippi

Paul Hopper, et al. v. Cameron International Corp., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-173  
Cajun Maid, LLC, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-176  
Hiep Trieu, et al. v. BP Exploration & Production, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-177  
Michael D. Sevel, et al. v. BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 1:10-179  
Jessica Staley v. Cameron International Corp., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-181  
Ronnie Daniels v. Cameron International Corp., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-182  
Stacey Van Duyn, et al. v. Cameron International Corp., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-183  
Aleen Grieshaber, et al., v. BP Products North America, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:10-185

Southern District of Texas

Ben Nelson, et al. v. Transocean, Ltd., et al., C.A. No. 3:10-172  
National Vietnamese American Fisherman Emergency Association, et al. v.  
BP, PLC, et al., C.A. No. 4:10-1607

UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL

on

MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

**CHAIRMAN:**

John G. Heyburn II  
United States District Court  
Western District of Kentucky

**MEMBERS:**

Robert L. Miller, Jr.  
United States District Court  
Northern District of Indiana

Kathryn H. Vratil  
United States District Court  
District of Kansas

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United States Court of Appeals  
Eighth Circuit

W. Royal Furgeson, Jr.  
United States District Court  
Northern District of Texas

Frank C. Damrell, Jr.  
United States District Court  
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Barbara S. Jones  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York

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August 10, 2010

Loretta G. Whyte, Clerk  
U.S. District Court  
500 Poydras Street  
Room C-151  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Re: MDL No. 2179 -- IN RE: Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico,  
on April 20, 2010

Dear Ms. Whyte:

Attached as a separate document is a certified copy of a transfer order that the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation issued today in the above-captioned matter. The order is directed to you for filing. Rule 1.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, 199 F.R.D. 425, 428 (2001), states "A transfer or remand pursuant to 28 U.S. C. § 1407 shall be effective when the transfer or remand order is filed in the office of the clerk of the district court of the transferee district."

Today we are also serving an information copy of the order on the transferor court(s). The Panel's governing statute, 28 U.S.C. §1407, requires that the transferee clerk "transmit a certified copy of the Panel's order to transfer to the clerk of the district court from which the action is being transferred [transferor court]."

Rule 1.6(a), pertaining to transfer of files, states "the clerk of the transferor district court shall forward to the clerk of the transferee district court the complete original file and a certified copy of the docket sheet for each transferred action." **With the advent of electronic filing, many transferee courts have found that it is not necessary to request the original file. Some transferee courts will send their certified copy of the Panel order with notification of the newly assigned transferee court case number and inform the transferor courts that they will copy the docket sheet via PACER. Others may request a certified copy of the docket sheet and a copy of the complaint (especially if it was removed from state court). You should be specific as to the files you would like to receive from the transferor courts and if no files will be necessary, you should make that clear. Therefore, Rule 1.6(a) will be satisfied once a transferor court has complied with your request.**

You may find Chapter 7 of Volume 4 of the Clerks Manual, United States District Courts helpful in managing the MDL docket.

The Panel Clerk's Office maintains the only statistical accounting of multidistrict litigation traffic in the federal courts. Therefore, we would appreciate your cooperation in keeping the Panel advised of the progress of this litigation. We are particularly interested in receiving the docket numbers assigned to each transferred action by your court; the caption and docket numbers of all actions originally filed in your district; and copies of orders regarding appointment of liaison counsel, settlements, dismissals, state court remands, and reassignments to other judges in your district.

Your attention is also directed to Panel Rule 7.6, regarding termination and remand of transferred actions. Upon notification from your court of a finding by the transferee judge suggesting to the Panel that Section 1407 remand of a transferred action is appropriate, this office will promptly file a conditional remand order.

Attached to this letter, for your information, is a copy of the Panel Service List and a listing of the transferor court clerks with respect to this order.

Very truly,

John Nichols  
Chief Deputy Clerk

By Tarrell L. Littleton  
Tarrell L. Littleton  
Case Administrator

Attachments (Transfer Order is a Separate Document)

cc: Transferee Judges: Judge Carl J. Barbier; Judge Kurt D. Engelhardt; Judge Martin L.C. Feldman  
Chief Judge Transferee District: Judge Sarah S. Vance

JPML Form 33

**Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation - Panel Service List  
for  
MDL 2179 - IN RE: Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico,**

**\*\*\* Report Key and Title Page \*\*\***

Please Note: This report is in alphabetical order by the last name of the attorney. A party may not be represented by more than one attorney. See Panel rule 5.2(c).

**Party Representation Key**

\* Signifies that an appearance was made on behalf of the party by the representing attorney.  
# Specified party was dismissed in some, but not all, of the actions in which it was named as a party.  
All counsel and parties no longer active in this litigation have been suppressed.

**This Report is Based on the Following Data Filters**

Docket: 2179 - Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico - 4/20/10  
For Open Cases

Docket: 2179 - IN RE: Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20, 2010

Status: Transferred on 08/10/2010

Transferee District: LAE Judge: Barbier, Carl J.

Printed on 08/10/2010

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=>  
Transocean, Ltd.; Transocean, Ltd. (Transocean Entity)

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IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, ON APRIL 20, 2010

MDL No. 2179

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**FLNDdb\_efile MDL/FLND/11/USCOURTS**

J.T. Noblin, Clerk  
U.S. District Court  
672 Judge Dan M. Russell, Jr. U.S. Courthouse  
2010 15th Street, Suite 403  
Gulfport, MS 39501  
**Sandra Campbell/MSSD/05/USCOURTS**

William M. McCool, Clerk  
U.S. Courthouse  
111 North Adams Street  
1129 Noble Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-7795  
**FLNDdb\_efile MDL/FLND/11/USCOURTS**

Sharon Harris, Clerk  
140 Hugo L. Black U.S. Courthouse  
1729 5th Avenue North  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
**ALNDdb\_JPML\_HelpDesk/ALND/11/USCOURTS**