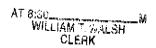
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# BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

In re:		
MENU FOODS, INC. PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION		MDL Docket No.
	1	

FLORIDA PLAINTIFF CHRISTINA TROIANO'S MOTION TO TRANSFER AND COORDINATE OR CONSOLIDATE ACTIONS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1407

Paul J. Geller Stuart A. Davidson James L. Davidson

## LERACH COUGHLIN STOIA GELLER RUDMAN & ROBBINS LLP

120 E. Palmetto Park Road, Suite 500 Boca Raton, FL 33432-4809 Telephone: (561) 750-3000 Facsimile: (561) 750-3364

Counsel for Florida Plaintiff Christina Troiano

Page 2 of 39

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407 and the Rules of Procedure on Multidistrict Litigation, plaintiff in the action styled Christina Troiano, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. Menu Foods, Inc. et. al., Case No. 07-60428-CIV-COHN, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida ("Troiano" or "Movant"), files this Motion and respectfully moves for an Order transferring all related pending actions against Menu Foods, Inc. and its related partners, affiliates and subsidiaries (the "Defendants"), including the actions listed on Schedule of Actions, to the Southern District of Florida.

As set forth below and in the accompanying Memorandum, Troiano believes the actions listed on the accompanying Schedule of Actions, and any future tag-along actions, satisfy the requirements for consolidation and coordination because they concern common questions of fact and law and consolidation or coordination will serve the interests of efficiency and convenience.

In support of this motion, Movants state as follows:

- Movant is the plaintiff in the following case: Christina Troiano, individually and on 1. behalf of all others similarly situated v. Menu Foods, Inc. et. al., Case No. 07-60428-CIV-COHN which is currently pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.
- 2. Movant is currently aware of six other pending class action cases containing similar factual allegations and seeking similar relief against the Defendants. The cases are listed on the attached Schedule.
- Accompanying Movant's Motion is a Rule 7.2(a)(ii) Schedule of Actions listing all 3. related actions of which Movant is aware. True and correct copies of the complaints in Movant's action and the complaints in each of the related actions are attached to the accompanying Schedule of Actions, filed herewith

- 4. As described in greater detail in the accompanying Memorandum, the factual allegations in each of the actions contain similar allegations regarding Defendants and their defective and ultimately deadly pet food. Each action contends that from December 3, 2006 up to and including March 6, 2007, and possibly at other times, Defendants entered into the stream of commerce pet food that was defective and, for thousands of household pets, deadly Defendants' pet food and pet food products (the "Products") were contaminated with rat poison or a related agent that contributed to the illness and/or death of thousands of dogs and cats. As a result of the defective Products, each action contends that the Plaintiffs and members of the putative Class suffered damages in that they have incurred substantial veterinary bills, death of pets, and purchased and/or own pet food and pet food products that they would not otherwise have bought had they known such products were defective.
- 5. Each action further contends that Defendants should have known or know and have admitted that certain of the Products produced by the Defendants between December 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007 are defective and causing injury and death to pets, and on March 16, 2007, initiated a recall of some of the Products.
- 6. A centralization of all actions in the Southern District of Florida will be for the convenience of parties and witnesses under 28 U.S.C. §1407 and will save Defendants the burden of having to defend virtually identical actions in multiple states. Witnesses will also be spared the possibility of being required to testify in several locales.
- 7. Because each of these related cases arises from a virtually identical set of operative facts relating to Defendants' conduct, discovery conducted in each of the actions proposed for consolidation will be substantially similar, and will involve the same or similar documents and witnesses.

Page 4 of 39

- 8. Absent transfer of all of these cases to a single forum for coordinated and consolidated proceedings, there is a substantial risk of inconsistent and conflicting pretrial rulings on discovery and other key issues, such as class certification. Coordination and consolidation will promote the just and efficient conduct of the actions, because it will allow one court to address Defendants' ongoing conduct.
- 9. Centralization in the Southern District of Florida will also promote the just and efficient conduct of this litigation under 28 U.S.C. § 1407 as more fully set forth in the attached Memorandum.
- 10. These actions have all been filed on or after March 19, 2007, and are still in their nascent stages. Movant is not aware of any discovery conducted to date, and know of no initial disclosures that have been made in any of these cases. A transfer of these related cases will result in only one judge supervising discovery and resolving any subsequent motions, including motions for class certification.
- Since all actions are in the beginning stage of the litigation, no prejudice or 11. inconvenience would result from transfer, coordination and/or consolidation.
- 12. A comparison of the relative MDL case loads of potential transferee districts demonstrates that the Southern District of Florida is a suitable forum. According to the Distribution of Pending MDL Dockets as of March 26, 2007, there is only one pending MDL proceeding in the Southern District of Florida, and numerous judges who have the experience to handle MDL's (See Distribution of Pending MDL Dockets as of March 26, 2007, Ex. A.).
- For these reasons, and as set forth more fully in the accompanying memorandum, 13. Movant respectfully requests that the Panel enter an Order consolidating and coordinating the actions

4

identified on the accompanying Schedule together with any related actions subsequently filed or presently unknown to Movant for proceedings in the Southern District of Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED: March 28, 2007

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Attorneys for Florida Plaintiff Christina Troiano

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# EXHIBIT A

DISTRIBUTION OF PENDING MDL DOCKETS (AS OF MARCH 12, 2007)

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	MDL-1337 In re Holocaust Era German Industry, Bank & Insurance Litigation MDL-1419 In re K-Dur Antitrust Litigation MDL-1384 In re Gapabentin Patent Litigation MDL-1479 In re Neurontin Antitrust Litigation		MDL-1516 In re Polyester Staple Antitrust Litigation  MDL-1335 In re Tyco International, Ltd., Securities, Derivative and "ERISA" Litigation	MDL-1132 In re Exterior Insulation Finish System (EIFS) Products Liability Litigation MDL-1622 In re Cotton Yarn Antitrust Litigation	l I	MDL-1724 In re Viagra Products Liability Litigation MDL-1726 In re Medtronic, Inc., Implantable Defibrillators Products Liability Litigation MDL-1396 In re St. Jude Medical, Inc., Silzone Heart Valves Products Liability Litigation MDL-1702 In re Air Crash Near Kirksville, Missouri, on October 19, 2004 MDL-1672 In re Express Scripts, Inc., Pharmacy Benefits Management Litigation	MDL-1431 In re Baycol Products Liability Litigation MDL-1708 In re Guidant Corp. Implantable Defibrillators Products Liability Litigation MDL-1328 In re Monosodium Glutamate Antitrust Litigation
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MDL-381 In re "Agent Orange" Products Liability Litigation MDL-1596 In re Zyprexa Products Liability Litigation	MDL-1738 In re Vitamin C Antitrust Litigation	MDL-1689 In re Air Crash Near Woodbury, Connecticut, on December 20, 2002	MDL-799 In re Air Disaster at Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988	MDL-1720 In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation	MDL-1575 In re Visa/MasterCard Antitrust Litigation	MDL-1613 In re Nigeria Charter Flights Contract Litigation	MDL-1775 In re Air Cargo Shipping Services Antitrust Litigation	MDL-1735 In re Wal-Mart Wage and Hour Employment Practices Litigation	MDL-1566 In re Western States Wholesale Natural Gas Antitrust Litigation	MDL-1357 In re NOS Communications, Inc., Billing Practices Litigation	MDL-1619 In re Musha Cay Litigation	
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Sr.J. Robert E. Jones	D.J. Stephen P. Friot	D.J. Gregory L. Frost Sr.J. James L. Graham D.J. Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.	D.J. Peter C. Economus D.J. James S. Gwin Sr.J. David A. Katz D.J. Donald C. Nugent D.J. Kathleen McDonald O'Malley D.J. Kathleen McDonald O'Malley D.J. Kathleen McDonald O'Malley	D.J. Jed S. Rakoff D.J. Shira Ann Scheindlin D.J. Shira Ann Scheindlin D.J. Shira Ann Scheindlin D.J. Shira Ann Scheindlin Sr.J. John E. Sprizzo Sr.J. John E. Sprizzo Sr.J. John E. Sprizzo D.J. Sidney H. Stein D.J. Sidney H. Stein D.J. Sidney H. Stein Sr.J. Robert W. Sweet and Sr.J. John F. Keenan*
MDL-1439 In re Farmers Insurance Exchange Claims Representatives' Overtime Pay Litigation	MDL-1564 In re Farmers Insurance Co., Inc., FCRA Litigation	MDL-1638 In re Foundry Resins Antitrust Litigation MDL-1565 In re National Century Financial Enterprises, Inc., Investment Litigation MDL-1315 In re SmarTalk TeleServices, Inc., Securities Litigation	MDL-1561 In re Travel Agent Commission Antitrust Litigation MDL-1481 In re Meridia Products Liability Litigation MDL-1742 In re Ortho Evra Products Liability Litigation MDL-1748 In re Ford Motor Co. Panther Platform/Fuel Tank Design Products Liability Litigation MDL-1401 In re Sulzer Orthopedics Inc. Hip Prosthesis and Knee Prosthesis Products Liability Litigation MDL-1490 In re Commercial Money Center, Inc., Equipment Lease Litigation MDL-1535 In re Welding Fume Products Liability Litigation	MDL-1740 In re Canon U.S.A., Inc., Digital Cameras Products Liability Litigation MDL-1358 In re Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether ("MTBE") Products Liability Litigation MDL-1428 In re Ski Train Fire in Kaprun, Austria, on November 11, 2000 MDL-1554 In re Initial Public Offering (IPO) Securities Litigation MDL-1153 In re Bennett Funding Group, Inc., Securities Litigation (No. II) MDL-1499 In re South African Apartheid Litigation MDL-1499 In re Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. Securities & Derivative Litigation (No. II) MDL-1584 In re Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. Securities & Derivative Litigation (No. II) MDL-1603 In re OxyContin Antitrust Litigation MDL-1696 In re Sierra Wireless, Inc., Securities Litigation MDL-1448 In re Air Crash at Belle Harbor, New York, on November 12, 2001  * Judge Keenan is assigned to actions in which Judge Sweet is recused.
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	D.J. James T. Giles D.J. Bruce W. Kauffman		Litigation	35
	D.J. Mary A. McLaughlin	In re American Investors Life Insurance ( Practices Litigation	Marketing and Sales	
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	D.J. Richard Barclay Surrick	MDL-1426 In re Automotive Refinishing Paint Antitrust Litigation	tion	tion 62
PAM	D.J. Thomas I. Vanaskie	MDL-1556 In re Pressure Sensitive Labelstock Antitrust Litigation	on	on 11
PAW	C.J. Donetta W. Ambrose D.J. Gary L. Lancaster	MDL-1091 In re Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. Sales Practices Litigation MDL-1674 In re Community Bank of Northern Virginia Mortgage Lending Practices Litigation	Litigation se Lending Practices	Litigation 6  ye Lending Practices 6
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	D.J. David C. Norton Sr.J. Matthew J. Perry, Jr.	MDL-1785 In re Bausch & Lomb Inc. Contact Lens Solution Products Liability Litigation MDL-865 In re Showa Denko K.K. L-Tryptophan Products Liability Litigation (No. II)	bducts Liability Litigation	bducts Liability Litigation 113
TNE	C.J. Curtis L. Collier	MDL-1552 In re UnumProvident Corp. Securities, Derivative & "ERISA" Litigation	"ERISA" Litigation	"ERISA" Litigation 23
Z	C.J. Todd J. Campbell Sr.J. John T. Nixon	MDL-1760 In re Aredia and Zometa Products Liability Litigation MDL-1537 In re Nortel Networks Corp. "ERISA" Litigation	'n	n 209 6
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83	75	MDL-1293 In re Natural Gas Royalties Qui Tam Litigation	WY C.J. William F. Downes	<del>Г</del>
177	16	MDL-1477 In re Serzone Products Liability Litigation	WVS D.J. Joseph R. Goodwin	
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10	10	MDL-1705 In re Xybernaut Corp. Securities Litigation	VAE D.J. Leonie M. Brinkema	
80	Ι	MDL-1546 In re Medical Waste Services Antitrust Litigation	UT D.J. Dale A. Kimball	
19	19	MDL-1810 In re MERSCORP Inc., et al., Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) Litigation	D.J. Janis Graham Jack	Filed
4	<u> </u>	MDL-1609 In re Service Corporation International Securities Litigation	D.J. Lynn N. Hughes	1 04
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28 25	15 1	MDL-1578 In re UICI "Association-Group" Insurance Litigation MDL-1214 In re Great Southern Life Insurance Company Sales Practices Litigation	TXN C.J. A. Joe Fish D.J. Sidney A. Fitzwater	
22	10	MDL-1530 In re Fleming Companies Inc. Securities & Derivative Litigation	D.J. T. John Ward	age
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AT 8:30 WILLIAM T. WALSH CLERK

## BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

In re:		
MENU FOODS PET FOOD LITIGATION	1	MDL Docket No.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Paul J. Geller Stuart A. Davidson James L. Davidson

# LERACH COUGHLIN STOIA GELLER RUDMAN & ROBBINS LLP

120 E. Palmetto Park Road, Suite 500 Boca Raton, FL 33432-4809

Telephone: (561) 750-3000 Facsimile: (561) 750-3364

Counsel for Florida Plaintiff Christina Trolano

I am employed by Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP, 120 E. Palmetto Park Road, Suite 500, Boca Raton, Florida 33432. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to this action. On March 28, 2007, I served the following documents:

- 1. FLORIDA PLAINTIFF CHRISTINA TROIANO'S MOTION TO TRANSFER AND COORDINATE OR CONSOLIDATE ACTIONS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1407;
- 2. FLORIDA PLAINTIFF CHRISTINA TROIANO'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO TRANSFER AND COORDINATE OR CONSOLIDATE ACTIONS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1407;
- 3. SCHEDULE OF ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FLORIDA PLAINTIFF CHRISTINA TROIANO'S MOTION TO TRANSFER AND COORDINATE OR CONSOLIDATE ACTIONS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1407; and
- 4. CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE.

on:

#### SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST "A"

X by placing the document(s) listed above for collection and mailing following the firm's ordinary business practices in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid for deposit in the United States mail at Boca Raton, Florida addressed as set forth on the attached service list.

I further certify and declare that I caused the above documents to be delivered by the same means to the clerks of the following courts affected by the Motion for Transfer and Consolidation:

#### SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST "B"

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the following is true and correct, executed this 29 day of March, 2007, at Boca Raton, Florida.

James L. Davidson

#### IN RE MENU FOODS PET FOOD LITIGATION

#### SERVICE LIST "A"

Paul J. Geller

Stuart A. Davidson James L. Davidson

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9130 Griffith Morgan Lane Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Defendant

Menu Foods Income Fund

8 Falconer Drive Streetsville, Ontario Canada L5N 1B1 Defendant

WHALEY v. MENU FOODS, ET AL.

Case No.: 2:07-cv-00411-RSM

USDC, Western District of Washington

Michael David Myers

MYERS & COMPANY, P.L.L.C.

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Canada L5N 1B1

Defendant

The Iams Company

c/o Registered Agent - Joseph A. Steghauer

Attn: Corporate Secretary

One Proctor & Gamble Plaza C-2

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Defendant

HOLT v. MENU FOODS, INC.

Case No.: 3:07-cv-00094

USDC, Eastern District of Tennessee

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Lizajean Holt

MAJERCZYK v. MENU FOODS, INC.

Case No.: 1:07-cv-01543

USDC, Northern District of Illinois

John Blim

Jay Edelson

Myles McGuire (Of Counsel)

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9130 Griffith Morgan Lane Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Defendant

SIMS v. MENU FOODS INCOME FUND, ET AL.

Case No.: 5:07-cv-05053-JLH USDC, Western District of Arkansas

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs Charles Ray Sims

and Pamela Sims

Menu Foods Income Fund

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Defendant

Menu Foods Midwest Corporation

c/o Registered Agent - The Corporation Trust Co.

1209 Orange Street

Wilmington, DE 19801-1120

Defendant

Menu Foods South Dakota, Inc.

c/o Registered Agent

The Corporation Trust Company

1209 Orange Street

Wilmington, DE 19801-1120

Menu Foods Holdings, Inc. c/o Registered Agent The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801-1120 Defendant

Menu Foods, Inc. c/o Registered Agent Corporation Trust Company 820 Bear Tavern Road West Trenton, NJ 08628

Defendant

WIDEN v. MENU FOODS, ET AL. Case No.: 5:07-cv-05055-RTD USDC, Western District of Arkansas

Jeremy Y. Hutchinson

Jack Thomas Patterson II

#### PATTON, ROBERTS, MCWILLIAMS & CAPSHAW, L.L.P.

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Facsimile: (501) 372-3488 Attorneys for Plaintiffs Richard Scott Widen

and Barbara Widen

Richard Adams James C. Wyly Sean F. Rommel

#### PATTON, ROBERTS, MCWILLIAMS & CAPSHAW, L.L.P.

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs Richard Scott Widen

and Barbara Widen

Menu Foods

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Menu Foods Income Fund

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Defendant

Menu Foods Gen Par Limited c/o Menu Foods Income Fund

8 Falconer Drive Streetsville, Ontario Canada L5N 1B1

Defendant

Menu Foods Limited Partnership c/o Menu Foods Income Fund

**8 Falconer Drive** Streetsville, Ontario Canada L5N 1B1 Defendant

Menu Foods Operating Partnership c/o Menu Foods Income Fund 8 Falconer Drive

Streetsville, Ontario Canada L5N 1B1

Menu Foods Midwest Corporation c/o Registered Agent The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801-1120 Defendant

Menu Foods South Dakota c/o Registered Agent The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801-1120 Defendant

Menu Foods, Inc. c/o Registered Agent Corporation Trust Company 820 Bear Tavern Road West Trenton, NJ 08628 Defendant

Menu Foods Holdings, Inc. c/o Registered Agent The Corporation Trust Company 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801-1120 Defendant

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. c/o Registered Agent The Corporation Trust Company 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801-1120 Defendant

WORKMAN, ET AL. v. MENU FOODS LIMITED, ET AL.

Case No.: 1:07-cv-01338-NLH-AMD USDC, District of New Jersey

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# IN RE MENU FOODS PET FOOD LITIGATION

#### SERVICE LIST "B"

CASE	CLERK
Whaley v. Menu Foods, et al.	USDC, Western District of Washington
Case No.: 2:07-cv-00411-RSM	U.S. Courthouse
USDC, Western District of Washington	700 Stewart Street
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Seattle, WA 98101
Holt v. Menu Foods, Inc.	USDC, Eastern District of Tennessee
Case No.: 3:07-cv-00094	Howard H. Baker Jr. U.S. Courthouse
USDC, Eastern District of Tennessee	800 Market Street, Suite 130
	Knoxville, TN 37902
Majerczyk v. Menu Foods, Inc	USDC, Northern District of Illinois
Case No.: 1:07-cv-01543	Everett McKinley Dirksen Building
USDC, Northern District of Illinois	219 South Dearborn Street
	Chicago, IL 60604
Sims v. Menu Foods Income Fund, et al.	USDC, Western District of Arkansas
Case No.: 5:07-cv-05053-JLH	John Paul Hammerschmidt Federal Building
USDC, Western District of Arkansas	35 East Mountain Street, Suite 510
	Fayetteville, AR 72701-5354
Widen v. Menu Foods, et al.	USDC, Western District of Arkansas
Case No.: 5:07-cv-05055-RTD	John Paul Hammerschmidt Federal Building
USDC, Western District of Arkansas	35 East Mountain Street, Suite 510
	Fayetteville, AR 72701-5354
Workman, et al. v. Menu Foods Limited, et al.	USDC, District of New Jersey
Case No.: 1:07-cv-01338-NLH-AMD	Mitchell H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse
USDC, District of New Jersey	4th & Cooper Streets, Room 1050
	Camden, NJ 08101

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#### BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

In re:		
MENU FOODS, INC. PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION		MDL Docket No
	1	

## FLORIDA PLAINTIFF CHRISTINA TROIANO'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO TRANSFER AND COORDINATE OR CONSOLIDATE ACTIONS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1407

Paul J. Geller Stuart A. Davidson James L. Davidson

## LERACH COUGHLIN STOIA GELLER **RUDMAN & ROBBINS LLP**

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Counsel for Florida Plaintiff Christina Troiano

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407 and the Rules of Procedure on Multidistrict Litigation, Plaintiff in the action styled *Christina Troiano*, *individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. Menu Foods, Inc. et. al.*, CASE NO. 07-60428-CIV-COHN, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Plaintiff Christina Troiano ("Troiano" or "Movant"), respectfully submits this Memorandum in Support of Florida Plaintiff Christina Troiano's Motion for Transfer and Coordination or Consolidation. For the reasons set forth below, Movant's lawsuit and the related lawsuits identified in the accompanying Schedule of Actions should be transferred to and consolidated in the Southern District of Florida.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Troiano brings her class action to remedy the harm caused by the defective and deadly pet food manufactured and placed into the stream of commerce by Menu Foods, Inc. and its affiliates, partners and subsidiaries (collectively, the "Menu Foods Defendants" or "Defendants"). Defendants are the leading North American private label/contract manufacturer of wet pet food products (the "Products") sold by supermarket retailers, mass merchandisers, pet specialty retailers, and other wholesale and retail outlets, including Wal-Mart, Safeway, Kroger, PetSmart, Inc., Giant Food, and other large retail chains, and has provided pet food products to or for Proctor & Gamble, Inc. Defendants produce hundreds of millions of containers of pet food annually.

Defendants design, manufacture, market, advertise and warrant their pet food Products. In conjunction with each sale, Defendants market, advertise and warrant that the Products are fit for the ordinary purpose for which such goods are used – consumption by pets – and are free from defects. Defendants produce the pet food Products intending that consumers will purchase the pet food products, regardless of brand or label name, place of purchase, or the location where pets actually consume them. The pet food Products are placed in the stream of commerce and distributed and

offered for sale and sold to Troiano and purchasers in Florida and the United States and fed to their pets.

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From December 3, 2006 up to and including March 6, 2007, and possibly at other times, Defendants entered into the stream of commerce pet food Products that were deadly and defective – Defendants' pet food and pet food Products were potentially contaminated with rat poison or some other agent that contributed to the illness and/or death of thousands of dogs and cats. As a result of the defective Products, Troiano and members of the putative Class have suffered damages in that they have incurred substantial veterinary bills, death of pets, and purchased and/or own pet food and pet food products that they would not otherwise have bought had they known such products were defective.

Defendants know and have admitted that certain of the Products produced by the Defendants between December 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007 are defective and causing injury and death to pets, and on March 16, 2007, initiated a nationwide recall of some of the Products. Further, the Food and Drug Administration has reported that as many as one in six animals died in tests of the Products by Defendants last month after the Defendants received complaints the Products were poisoning pets around the country. A spokeswoman for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has said that rodent poison was determined to have been mixed into the Products.

#### II. HISTORY OF THE PENDING LAWSUITS

The related actions, identified in the accompanying Schedule of Actions present common questions of law and fact, common defendants, and are brought on behalf of overlapping classes (i.e., all persons and entities who suffered damages due to Defendants' defective pet food and pet food Products). Transfer and consolidation of all existing actions, and all subsequently filed related cases, to the Southern District of Florida will best serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses

and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation. Each related action is briefly discussed below.

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On or about March 19, 2007, Tom Whaley, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, filed the class action styled *Whaley v. Menu Foods, Inc., et. al.*, Case No. 2:07-cv-00411, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington (the "*Whaley* Action"). This complaint seeks damages and equitable relief for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, deceptive and unfair business practices, breach of warranties and negligent misrepresentation on behalf of a class of all persons who purchased any dog or cat food which was produced by the Defendants and/or has had a dog or cat become ill as a result of eating the food.

Also on March 19, 2007, Lizajean Holt, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, filed the class action styled *Holt v. Menu Foods, Inc.*, Case No. 3:07-cv-00094, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee (the "*Holt* Action"). This complaint likewise seeks damages and equitable relief for deceptive and unfair business practices, breach of warranties and negligence on behalf of a class of all persons in the United States who purchased or fed his, her, or their cat(s) or dog(s) pet food produced or manufactured by Defendants that was or will be recalled by the Defendants, including that produced fro December 3, 2006 up to and including March 6, 2007.

On or about March 20, 2007, Dawn Majerczyk, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, filed the class action styled *Majerczyk v. Menu Foods, Inc.*, Case No. 1:07-cv-01543, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (the "*Majerczyk* Action"). This complaint seeks damages and injunctive relief for breach of warranties and negligence on behalf of a class of herself and all others who purchased pet food in the United States that was ultimately subject to the March 16, 2007 Menu Foods recall.

On or about March 21, 2007, Charley Ray Sims and Pamela Sims, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, filed the class action styled Sims, et. al. v. Menu Foods Income Fund, et. al., Case No. 5:07-cv-05053, in the District Court for the Western District of Arkansas (the "Sims Action"). This complaint seeks damages for strict liability, fraud, breach of express and implied warranties and negligence on behalf of a class of (1) all persons or entities who purchased Menu Food brands at any time and disposed of or will not use the products based on publicity surrounding the safety and recall of the products; (2) all persons or entities who purchased Menu Foods products and fed products to their pets on or since December 6, 2006; and (3) all persons or entities who purchased Menu Food products from wholesale distributors on or since December 6, 2006.

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On or about March 23, 2007, Jared Workman, and Mark and Mona Cohen, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, filed the class action styled *Workman, et. al. v. Menu Foods Limited, et. al.*, Case No. 1:07-ev-01338, in the District Court for the District of New Jersey (the "*Workman* Action"). This complaint seeks damages for breach of express and implied warranties and negligence on behalf of a class of all persons in the United States who purchased any of the pet food brands manufactured by Defendants during the period commencing December 3, 2006, and ending March 6, 2007.

Also on March 23, 2007, Richard and Barbara Widen, and Mark and Mona Cohen, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, filed the class action styled *Widen, et. al. v. Menu Foods, et. al.*, Case No. 5:07-cv-05055, in the District Court for the Western District of Arkansas (the "*Widen* Action"). This complaint seeks damages for strict liability and negligence on behalf of a class of all persons in the United States who purchased contaminated pet food from Wal-Mart that was produced by Menu Foods.

On March 26, 2007, Troiano, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, filed her Complaint against Defendants alleging claims for negligence, breach of warranties, strict liability, and unjust enrichment.

#### III. ARGUMENT

In view of the facts outlined above, and the jurisprudence regarding multidistrict litigation set forth below, these cases should be centralized in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Transfer and consolidation is essential to permit the efficient and non-duplicative handling of these cases and the Southern District of Florida is the most appropriate venue for this multidistrict litigation.

# A. The Similarity of These Class Actions Warrants Coordination and Consolidation

28 U.S.C. § 1407(a) authorizes the transfer of multiple civil actions pending in various federal districts to a single federal district court when the actions involve "one or more common questions of fact . . . ." Moreover, transfer is necessary "in order to eliminate duplicative discovery; prevent inconsistent rulings on pretrial motions, including those with respect to whether the actions should proceed as [class actions] . . . ." In re Starmed Health Personnel, Inc. Fair Labor Standards Act Litig., 317 F. Supp. 2d 1380, 1381 (J.P.M.L. 2004); see also In re Comp. of Managerial Prof'l and Tech. Employees Antitrust Litig., 206 F. Supp. 2d 1374, 1375 (J.P.M.L. 2002) (noting that centralization is "necessary in order to... prevent inconsistent pretrial rulings (especially with regard to class certification issues")).

The requirements for transfer under section 1407 are easily satisfied here. As discussed above, each of these pending cases (i) purport to represent a large class of individuals and/or entities who were damaged by defective and deadly pet food marketed, manufactured and/or distributed by the Defendants, (ii) assert the same or similar claims against the Defendants, and (iii) seek to recover

losses based upon those damages caused by the Defendants. To separately litigate each pending case (and subsequently filed related cases) would waste resources and present the danger of inconsistent pretrial rulings. Consolidation of these cases is particularly critical because these related actions seek class action status on behalf of the same class or overlapping classes and, as a result, there is a significant potential for conflicting or inconsistent rulings on class certification issues. Accordingly, centralization and consolidation pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407 is warranted.

The consolidation and transfer of these cases would further promote the efficient adjudication of these actions. As the class actions alleged in these related cases are similar if not identical, the discovery needed in each of these pending cases will unquestionably be duplicative. To have the parties engaged in duplicative discovery in multiple complex class actions would be singularly inefficient and an unnecessary burden on the judicial system and the parties. These factors again all weigh heavily in favor of consolidating and coordinating these cases.

#### The Southern District of Florida Is the Proper Forum for These В. Coordinated Proceedings

Numerous factors may be considered by the Panel in determining the most appropriate transferee forum, including "convenience of the parties and witnesses." See In re Computervision Corp. Sec. Litig., 814 F. Supp. 85, 86 (J.P.M.L. 1993). Here, the balance of relevant factors weighs strongly in favor of transferring these actions to the Southern District of Florida due to its convenient location, large concentration of putative class members, experience in handling MDL proceedings, and lack of pending MDL cases.

#### 1. The Southern District of Florida Is as Appropriate as Any Other Forum for the Parties and Witnesses

The convenience of the parties and witnesses is a critical factor in determining to which district related actions should be transferred. See 28 U.S.C. § 1407(a) (related actions may be transferred to a district for coordinated proceedings upon a determination that the transfer "will be for the convenience of parties and witnesses and will promote the just and efficient conduct of such actions"). In deciding whether a particular forum is convenient, the Panel examines factors such as: where the first filed and most advanced cases are pending; the location of the parties, documents and potential witnesses relative to that district; and the location where the majority of actions have been brought. See In re Baldwin-United Corp. Litig., 581 F. Supp. 739, 740 (J.P.M.L. 1984).

The Defendants in the multiple class actions are a Canadian business entity and its United States subsidiaries and/or affiliates, as well as certain other Defendant-distributors of the defective products. Each of these entities is headquartered and/or incorporated in different jurisdictions, including Canada, New Jersey, and Delaware. Of the seven lawsuits currently pending, one is pending in the Western District of Washington, one is pending in the Eastern District of Tennessee, one is pending in the Northern District of Illinois, two are pending in the Western District of Arkansas, on is pending in the District Court for the District of New Jersey, and one is pending in the Southern District of Florida. Further, upon information and belief, Defendants conduct business, and potentially have caused damages to purported class members, in all fifty states. Thus, there is no central forum that would be more convenient over any others in terms of the locations of parties, documents, and potential witnesses.

#### The Accessibility of the Southern District of Florida Warrants 2.

While there will be a large number of class members residing in Florida, Troiano anticipates that parties to this litigation will come from all across the country and not one centralized region. Those parties residing outside of Florida will find the courthouses in the Southern District of Florida convenient and accessible by all forms of transportation. The multiple federal courthouses in the Southern District of Florida - in, among other place, Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach - are all in very close proximity to airports that have direct flights on many airlines to

numerous cities across the United States. Traveling from the airport to the courthouse is also simple due to the varieties of ground transportation available. See In re Comp. of Managerial, Prof'l and Tech. Employees Antitrust Litig., 206 F. Supp. 2d at 1375 (transferring cases to the District of New Jersey and noting that the District of New Jersey is an "accessible" metropolitan location that is geographically convenient for litigants and counsel). On balance, the accessibility factor favors transfer of the related actions in the Southern District of Florida.

#### 3. The Southern District of Florida Has the Capacity and Expertise to Handle these Related Cases

A comparison of the relative MDL case loads of potential transferee districts demonstrates that the Southern District of Florida is a highly suitable forum. The judges of the Southern District of Florida have vast experience in Multidistrict litigation, having brought to termination a total of 24 cases through September 30, 2006. Yet, as of March 26, 2007, the Southern District of Florida only had only one pending MDL proceeding, which is nearly in an inactive stage. Thus, while the Southern District of Florida is well versed in the nuances of Multidistrict litigation, the Southern District would not be overburdened with similar cases if these actions were transferred there.

#### C. No Party Is Prejudiced by the Transfer and Consolidation of These Lawsuits

Each of the related lawsuits is in its infancy. To Movant's knowledge, no party has served discovery, filed disclosures or engaged in substantive motion practice regarding these lawsuits. Because these related cases are all in their early stages, no party will be prejudiced by the transfer to the Southern District of Florida. Furthermore, since no discovery has occurred, an Order transferring

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Multidistrict Litigation Terminated Through September 30, 2006, available at http://www. jpml.uscourts.gov/Statistics/TerminatedDocketsThroughSeptember2006.pdf, viewed on March 26, 2007.

these cases to the Southern District of Florida can truly eliminate the expenses associated with the duplicative discovery that would otherwise occur in District Courts across the country.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, the Plaintiff respectfully request that the related actions identified on the accompanying Schedule of Actions, and any tag-along actions, be transferred to and consolidated in the Southern District of Florida. Accordingly, the Plaintiff respectfully request that this Panel enter an Order transferring the related actions, and any future related actions, to the Southern District of Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED: March 25, 2007

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AT 8:30 MILIAMIT. WALSH CLERK

# BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

In re:	
MENU FOODS, INC. PRODUCTS	MDL Docket No.
LIABILITY LITIGATION	
/	

SCHEDULE OF ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FLORIDA PLAINTIFF CHRISTINA TROIANO'S MOTION TO TRANSFER AND COORDINATE OR CONSOLIDATE ACTIONS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1407

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# SCHEDULE OF ACTIONS

Case Caption	Date Filed	Court	Civil Action No.	Judge
Plaintiffs: Tom Whaley Defendants: Menu Foods, The Iams Company, Dog Food Producers Number 1-50, Cat Food Producers 1-40	March 19, 2007	W.D. Washington	2:07-cv- 00411	Ricardo S. Martinez
Plaintiffs: Lizajean Holt Defendants: Menu Foods, Inc.	March 19, 2007	E.D. Tennessee	3:07-cv- 00094	Thomas W. Phillips
Plaintiffs: Dawn Majerczyk Defendants: Menu Foods, Inc.	March 20, 2007	N.D. Illinois	1:07-cv- 01543	Wayne R. Anderson
Plaintiffs: Charles Ray Sims, Pamela Sims Defendants: Menu Foods Income Fund, Menu Foods Midwest Corporation, Menu Foods South Dakota Inc., Menu Foods, Inc., Menu Foods Holdings, Inc.	March 21, 2007	W.D. Arkansas	5:07-cv- 05053	Jimm Larry Hendren
Plaintiffs: Richard Scott Widen, Barbara Widen Defendants: Menu Foods, Menu Foods Income Fund, Menu Foods General Partnership Limited, Menu Foods Limited		W.D. Arkansas	5:07-cv- 05055	Robert T. Dawson

Partnership, Menu Foods Operating Partnership, Menu Foods Midwest				
Plaintiffs: Jared Workman, Mark Cohen, Mona Cohen Defendants: Menu Foods Limited, Menu Foods Inc., Menu Foods Midwest Corporation	March 23, 2007	D. New Jersey	2:07-cv- 00411	Noel L. Hillman
Plaintiffs: Christina Troiano Defendants: Menu Foods Limited, Menu Foods Inc., Menu Foods Midwest Corporation	March 26, 2007	S.D. Florida	0:07-ev- 60428	James I. Cohn

DATED: March 29, 2007

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