

Northern District of Ohio judge picked to preside over opioid MDL (/stories/511285238-northern-district-of-ohio-judge-picked-to-preside-over-opioid-mdl)

by The Madison County Record (/author/the-madison-county-record) | Dec. 5, 2017, 2:00pm



WASHINGTON – Multi district judges consolidated 155 opioid suits from 25 courts on Dec. 5, and chose District Judge Dan Polster of the Northern District of Ohio in Cleveland to preside over them.

The U.S. Judicial Panel on Multi District Litigation reached its decisions five days after holding a hearing on consolidation in St. Louis (<https://madisonrecord.com/stories/511285165-callis-makes-pitch-to-mdl-panel-for-opioid-litigation-in-sdil-judges-reaction-shows-apparent-disinterest>).

Panel chair Sarah Vance wrote that all the actions implicate common fact questions as to allegedly improper marketing and widespread diversion.

She wrote that although individual issues might arise, they don't negate the efficiencies to be gained by centralization at this early stage.

"As reflected in our questions at oral argument, this litigation might evolve to include additional categories of plaintiffs and defendants, as well as different types of claims," Vance wrote.

"We will address whether to include specific actions or claims through the conditional transfer order process."

She wrote that centralization in Northern Ohio would serve the convenience of parties and witnesses.

“Ohio has a strong factual connection to this litigation, given that it has experienced a significant rise in the number of opioid related overdoses in the past several years and expended significant sums in dealing with the effects of the opioid epidemic,” Vance wrote.

She wrote that the district presents a geographically central and accessible forum relatively close to headquarters of defendants.

“Indeed, one of the big three distributor defendants, Cardinal Health, is based in Ohio,” she wrote.

Vance further found that Polster’s experience in multi district litigation over gadolinium contrast dyes, which involved several hundred cases, provided him valuable insight into the management of complex litigation.

Hunter Shkolnik of New York City, representing three Ohio cities, recommended Polster at the panel’s hearing on Nov. 30.

Want to get notified whenever we write about **Napoli Bern Ripka Shkolnik** ?

Next time we write about Napoli Bern Ripka Shkolnik, we'll email you a link to the story. You may edit your settings or unsubscribe at any time.

Sign-up for Alerts

Organizations in this Story

[Napoli Bern Ripka Shkolnik \(/organizations/645050261-napoli-bern-ripka-shkolnik/stories\)](/organizations/645050261-napoli-bern-ripka-shkolnik/stories)

More News



[\(/stories/511285238-northern-district-of-ohio-judge-picked-to-preside-over-opioid-mdl\)](/stories/511285238-northern-district-of-ohio-judge-picked-to-preside-over-opioid-mdl)

Dec 5, 2017

Northern District of Ohio judge picked to preside over opioid MDL (/stories/511285238-northern-district-of-ohio-judge-picked-to-preside-over-opioid-mdl)



[\(/stories/511285232-new-report-ranks-metro-east-one-of-the-nation-s-worst-judicial-hellholes\)](/stories/511285232-new-report-ranks-metro-east-one-of-the-nation-s-worst-judicial-hellholes)

Dec 5, 2017

New report ranks Metro-East one of the nation’s worst 'Judicial Hellholes' (/stories/511285232-new-report-ranks-metro-east-one-of-the-nation-s-worst-judicial-hellholes)