

United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: TFT-LCD (FLAT PANEL)  
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

No. M 07-1827 SI

MDL No. 1827

This Order Relates to:  
  
ALL INDIRECT-PURCHASER  
CASES

**AMENDED ORDER APPOINTING  
MARTIN QUINN AS SPECIAL MASTER**

Since the appointment of Martin Quinn of JAMS to serve as special master in this litigation, *see* Master Docket No. 1679, the indirect-purchaser class and certain state attorneys general have settled their claims against defendants. In this context, issues regarding the allocation of expenses and attorneys' fees have arisen.

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53(b)(4), the Court gave notice to all parties on August 20, 2012, of its intent to amend its previous Order appointing Mr. Quinn. The Court proposed amending the Order to charge Mr. Quinn with the additional duty of preparing reports and issuing recommendations on the subjects of reimbursement of expenses and awards of attorneys' fees in the indirect-purchaser class action and state attorneys general actions. Mr. Quinn has notified the Court that he is willing to accept such authority. As of August 28, 2012, the Court had not received any requests to be heard on the Court's proposed amendments.

**I. Scope**

1. Order Applicable to All Cases in MDL Proceedings. This Order shall apply to all cases currently pending in MDL No. 1827 and to all related actions that have been or will be originally filed in, transferred to, or removed to this Court and assigned thereto (collectively, "the MDL proceedings"),

1 except that the Special Master's responsibilities as to attorneys' fees and expenses are limited to the  
2 indirect-purchaser class action and state attorneys general actions. This Amended Order is otherwise  
3 binding on all parties and their counsel in all cases currently pending or subsequently made part of these  
4 proceedings and shall govern each case in the proceedings.

5 2. Appointment of Special Master. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53 the  
6 Court hereby appoints Martin Quinn as a Special Master to assist the Court in this litigation.

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8 **II. Basis for Appointment**

9 3. Basis for Appointment. The Special Master is hereby appointed pursuant to Rule  
10 53(a)(1) to perform duties consented to by the parties (Rule 53(a)(1)(A)), and to address pretrial matters  
11 that cannot be addressed effectively and timely by an available district judge or magistrate judge of the  
12 district (Rule 53(a)(1)(C)).

13 4. No Grounds for Disqualification. Pursuant to Rule 53(a)(2) and 53(b)(3), the Special  
14 Master has filed an affidavit with this Court that states that he has no relationship to the parties, counsel,  
15 action, or Court that would require disqualification of a judge under 28 U.S.C. § 455. During the course  
16 of these proceedings, the Special Master and the parties shall notify this Court immediately if they  
17 become aware of any potential grounds that would require disqualification.

18 5. Fairness Considerations. Pursuant to Rule 53(a)(3), the Court has considered the fairness  
19 of imposing the likely expenses of the Special Master on the parties. The Court believes that the  
20 appointment and use of the Special Master will materially advance the litigation, thereby achieving  
21 considerable cost-saving to all parties. The Court will protect against unreasonable expenses and delay  
22 through regular communication with the Special Master and Liaison Counsel.

23 6. Proper Notice Given to All Parties. Pursuant to Rule 53(b)(1) and Pretrial Order No. 1,  
24 the Court gave all parties to the MDL proceedings notice of its intent to appoint the Special Master and  
25 an opportunity to be heard with respect to such an appointment before issuing this Order.

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27 **III. Special Master's Duties, Authority and Compensation**

28 7. Diligence. Pursuant to Rule 53(b)(2), the Court hereby directs the Special Master to

1 proceed with all reasonable diligence in performing his duties in the MDL proceedings.

2 8. Scope of the Special Master's Duties. Pursuant to Rule 53(b)(2)(A), the Special Master  
3 shall assist the Court with all discovery disputes, managing the conduct of discovery to promote  
4 efficiency and savings of time and cost, and dealing with any other matters which the Court may direct  
5 him to undertake. The Special Master shall have the authority to set the date, time and place for all  
6 hearings, to preside over hearings, to take evidence, to conduct telephonic conferences to resolve  
7 disputes arising during depositions, and to issue orders awarding non-contempt sanctions, including,  
8 without limitation, the award of attorneys' fees, as provided by Rules 37 and 45. The Special Master  
9 is authorized to receive and consider information designated as confidential pursuant to the Protective  
10 Order entered in this matter, and may review privileged material *in camera*. The Special Master has  
11 agreed to be bound by said Protective Order.

12 (a) The Special Master's duties shall be supplemented and modified to assist the  
13 Court by preparing reports and issuing recommendations in the indirect-  
14 purchaser class action and state attorneys general actions on the subjects of: (1)  
15 the reimbursement of the parties' expenses, and (2) the appropriate amount of  
16 attorneys' fees to be awarded to the parties. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(e). All  
17 recommendations submitted by the Special Master concerning the reimbursement  
18 of expenses or awards of attorneys' fees shall be filed and served as set forth in  
19 paragraph 12;

20 (b) The Special Master is authorized to retain independent auditors, accountants, and  
21 clerical assistants to assist him with the preparation of any report concerning  
22 expenses or fees; and

23 (c) In connection with his review of attorneys' fees and expenses, the Special Master  
24 is authorized to employ such processes, and to request such evidence and  
25 information, in whatever form is appropriate, as will contribute to a fair and  
26 efficient resolution of such issues.

27 9. Scope of the Special Master's Authority. The Special Master shall have the authority  
28 provided in Rule 53(c).

1           10.    Procedure for Motions Submitted to the Special Master. The procedural requirements  
2 contained in this Court's Pretrial Orders shall govern any motion practice before the Special Master,  
3 unless he orders otherwise.

4           11.    Ex Parte Communications. Pursuant to Rule 53(b)(2)(B), the Special Master may  
5 communicate *ex parte* with the Court at any time. Generally, the Special Master shall not communicate  
6 *ex parte* with any party without first providing notice to, and receiving consent from, plaintiffs' and  
7 defendants' Liaison Counsel. However, in order to facilitate the fair and effective performance of his  
8 duties regarding attorneys' fees and expenses in the indirect-purchaser class action and state attorneys  
9 general actions, the Special Master may communicate *ex parte* with counsel.

10          12.    Preservation of Materials and Preparation of Record. Pursuant to Rule 53(b)(2)(c), the  
11 Special Master shall maintain orderly files consisting of all documents submitted to him by the parties  
12 and of any of his written orders, findings, and/or recommendations. Pursuant to Rule 53(e), the Special  
13 Master shall file any written orders, findings, and/or recommendations with the Court via the Court's  
14 Electronic Case Filing ("ECF") as described in the Court's Pretrial Order No. 1, paragraph 7. Such  
15 filing shall fulfill the Special Master's duty to serve his orders on the parties.

16          13.    Compensation. Pursuant to Rule 53(f), the Special Master shall be compensated at an  
17 hourly rate of \$600.00 for his services as Special Master in the MDL proceedings, plus the  
18 Administrative Fee charged by JAMS, and shall be reimbursed for any out-of-pocket expenses (e.g.,  
19 costs of accountants, auditors and clerical assistants, and expenses for telephone conference calls). The  
20 Special Master shall not charge for travel time. Mr. Quinn shall prepare a monthly invoice for his  
21 services, which he shall provide to all Liaison Counsel. In connection with discovery matters, plaintiffs  
22 and defendants shall each pay half of the monthly invoice, unless the Special Master or the Court directs  
23 otherwise. Liaison Counsel for the class and the direct action plaintiffs shall meet and confer with  
24 plaintiff's Interim Lead Counsel regarding how to apportion plaintiffs' half of a particular invoice.  
25 Defendants' Liaison Counsel also shall meet and confer with other defense counsel regarding how to  
26 apportion defendants' half of a particular invoice. In connection with the review of the parties' request  
27 for expenses and attorneys' fees, the monthly invoice shall be paid by plaintiffs, apportioned as  
28 described above. Liaison Counsel shall each be responsible for promptly forwarding payment of the

1 Special Master's invoice.

2 14. Special Master's Reports to Court. Pursuant to Rule 53(e), the Special Master shall issue  
3 orders on motions presented to him which shall be final and not require the Court's signature, subject  
4 to the parties' right to file objections as described below. Further, the Special Master shall prepare  
5 reports and issue recommendations to the Court on the subjects of the reimbursement of expenses and  
6 awards of attorneys' fees. If the Special Master considers it advisable to make any other report to the  
7 Court, he shall do so in accordance with Rule 53(f).

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9 **IV. Action on Special Master's Orders, Reports, or Recommendations**

10 15. Scope of Section. Pursuant to Rule 53(f), the procedures described in paragraphs 16  
11 through 19 herein shall govern any action on the Special Master's orders, reports, and/or  
12 recommendations.

13 16. Time Limits for Review. Any party wishing to file objections to or a motion to adopt  
14 or modify the Special Master's orders, reports, and/or recommendations must file such objections or  
15 motion with the Court within 14 days from the day the Special Master filed the order, report, and/or  
16 recommendation via ECF. Any order issued by the Special Master shall remain in effect pending any  
17 such objection or motion. Any opposition shall be filed within 7 days after the objection on the motion  
18 is filed.

19 17. Filing the Record for Review. The party filing the objection or motion shall submit with  
20 such objection or motion any record necessary for the Court to review the Special Master's order, report,  
21 and/or recommendation, including any transcripts of proceedings before the Special Master and any  
22 documents submitted by the parties in connection with the Special Master's order, report, and/or  
23 recommendation. Failure to provide the record shall constitute grounds for the Court to overrule the  
24 objection or deny the motion.

25 18. Standard for the Court's Review. Pursuant to Rule 53(f)(3)-(5), the Court shall review  
26 findings of fact made or recommended by the Special Master for clear error. The Court shall review *de*  
27 *novo* any conclusions of law made or recommended by the Special Master. The Court will set aside the  
28 Special Master's ruling on a procedural matter only for an abuse of discretion.

1           19.     Court's Actions on Special Master's Orders. Pursuant to Rule 53(f)(1), in acting on an  
2 order, report, or recommendation of the Special Master, the Court shall afford the parties an opportunity  
3 to present their positions and, in its discretion, may receive evidence, and may adopt or affirm; modify;  
4 wholly or partly reject or reverse; resubmit to the Special Master with instructions; or make any further  
5 orders it deems appropriate.

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7           **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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9 Dated: August 29, 2012



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SUSAN ILLSTON  
United States District Judge

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