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FILED

March 5, 2024

HON. BRUCE J. KAPLAN, J.S.C.

JOSEPH CONTE,

Plaintiff

vs

MERCK & CO., INC. and MERCK SHARP
& DOHME CORP.,

Defendants

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION: MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Docket No. MID-L-6530-18

**ORDER ADMITTING
KATHLEEN HARDWAY, ESQ.,
PRO HAC VICE**

WHEREAS, Defendants Merck & Co., Inc. and Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.¹, by and through its attorneys Fox Rothschild LLP, upon notice to all interested parties, has moved before this Court for admission *pro hac vice* of Kathleen Hardway, Esquire; and the Court having considered the papers submitted in support thereof; and the Court having found that Kathleen Hardway, Esquire, is a member in good standing before the bar of the highest Court of the State where she is domiciled and principally practices law; and for other good cause shown,

IT IS ON THIS 5th day of March 2024;

ORDERED that Kathleen Hardway, Esq. be and hereby are admitted *pro hac vice* and are authorized to appear and participate with New Jersey counsel of record for Defendants Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, in all phases of this matter, through and including trial, subject to the following conditions:

¹ Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. is now known as Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC.

1. Kathleen Hardway, Esq. shall abide by the *New Jersey Court Rules* including all disciplinary rules, R. 1:20-1 and R. 1:28-2.

2. Kathleen Hardway, Esq. shall, and hereby do, consent to the appointment of the Clerk of the Supreme Court as their agent upon whom service of process may be made for all actions against Kathleen Hardway, Esq. that may arise out of their participation in the matter.

3. Kathleen Hardway, Esq. shall immediately notify the Court of any matter affecting their standing with the Bar of any other jurisdiction.

4. Kathleen Hardway, Esq. shall have all pleadings, briefs, and other papers filed with the Court signed by an attorney of record authorized to practice in New Jersey, who shall be held responsible for them, the conduct of the litigation, and the attorney admitted herein.

5. Kathleen Hardway, Esq. cannot be designated as trial counsel and must be accompanied by a member of the New Jersey Bar for all proceedings, unless specifically waived by the Court.

6. No discovery, motion, trial, or any other proceeding delay shall occur or be requested by reason of the inability of Kathleen Hardway, Esq. to be in attendance.

7. Kathleen Hardway, Esq. must, within ten (10) days, submit an affidavit of compliance affirming that they have paid the fees required by R. 1:20-1(b), 1:28B-1(e), and R. 1:28-2.

8. *Pro hac vice* admission will automatically terminate for failure to make the initial and any annual payment required by R. 1:20-1(b), R. 1:28B-1(e), and R. 1:28-2.

9. Non-compliance with any of the terms of this order shall constitute grounds for removal.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that service of this Order shall be deemed effectuated upon all parties upon its upload to e-Courts. Pursuant to Rule 1:5-1(a), movant shall serve a copy of this Order on all parties not served electronically within seven (7) days of the date of this Order.

UNOPPOSED

ISI Bruce J. Kaplan
HONORABLE BRUCE J. KAPLAN, J.S.C.

Having read and considered the above motion, the Court finds it to be unopposed, meritorious on its face, and in compliance with R. 1:21-2. Pursuant to R. 1:6-2, it therefore will be granted essentially for the reasons set forth in the moving papers.