

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE Northern District of Illinois – CM/ECF NextGen 1.8 (rev. 1.8.3)
Eastern Division

Leon Martin, et al.

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No.: 1:22-cv-05513

Honorable Sunil R. Harjani

Robert B. Ford, et al.

Defendant.

NOTIFICATION OF DOCKET ENTRY

This docket entry was made by the Clerk on Wednesday, May 14, 2025:

MINUTE entry before the Honorable Sunil R. Harjani: Motion for reassignment of case as related [229] is granted. As the parties note, this motion involves a reassignment of a related case, not consolidation of the matter. The Local Rule 40.4 requirements are easily satisfied as both cases involve derivative shareholder actions involving the Abbott's shutdown of the Sturgis plant due to infant formula contamination. The differences between a demand-futility case and a demand-excused case, as raised by Steele, are not significant enough to deny reassignment. Both cases are pending in this district, the Court is very familiar with the subject matter such that there are judicial economies with this Court handling both cases, the earlier case has not progressed where any proceedings would be delayed (particularly given the partial stay as a result of the SLC investigation), and the cases are susceptible of disposition in a single proceeding at this juncture. While Steele appears to oppose reassignment on the last prong, the Court's read of his brief appears that he really opposes consolidation under FRCP 42, an issue that is not before the Court. At this time, the Steele case can proceed as a separate action before this Court, and the Court can decide the threshold question of demand-excused without it being affected by the lead counsel's present litigation. **The Clerk of the Court is directed to reassign case no. 25 cv 3669 to this Court based on its finding of relatedness under Local Rule 40.4.** Mailed notice(lxs,)

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