

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE, SC.

SUPERIOR COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2025-12

RE: MASS TORT CALENDAR

- I.** Mass tort litigation is a complex practice area that is typically litigated in a multidistrict litigation (“MDL”) or multicounty litigation (“MCL”) forum. In such forums, Rhode Island litigants usually represent a small number of the litigants and thus their cases are not always expeditiously resolved. In order to expedite the opportunity for Rhode Island litigants to have their cases resolved and to facilitate the management of complex mass tort litigation, there is hereby established a Statewide Mass Tort Calendar for the Counties of Providence and Bristol, Kent, Washington, and Newport (“Mass Tort Calendar”).
- II.** The Presiding Justice shall assign an Associate Justice to manage and supervise the Mass Tort Calendar (the Mass Tort Calendar Supervising Justice).
- III.** At the order of the Mass Tort Calendar Supervising Justice, a mass tort docket will be created for similar matters involving the same underlying product, claim, or tort and a common defendant or group of defendants. Such docket may, at the discretion of the Mass Tort Calendar Supervising Judge, have a common long form complaint and/or long form answer with a template for a short form complaint and/or answer.

- IV.** For each docket, the Mass Tort Calendar Supervising Justice may issue Case Management Orders or other Orders that will be applicable to all cases within the docket. Such orders may concern complex discovery including e-discovery, fact depositions, and motion practice; coordination (as appropriate) with litigation outside of Rhode Island; expert reports and depositions; pretrial motion practice; jury selection and trial; and resolution techniques.
- V.** The Mass Tort Calendar Supervising Justice may select at his or her discretion bellwether cases for trial.
- VI.** With the approval of the Presiding Justice, the Mass Tort Calendar Supervising Justice may issue additional protocols concerning the management of the Mass Tort Calendar.

BY ORDER OF,

/s/

**ALICE B. GIBNEY
PRESIDING JUSTICE**

DATED: OCTOBER 30, 2025