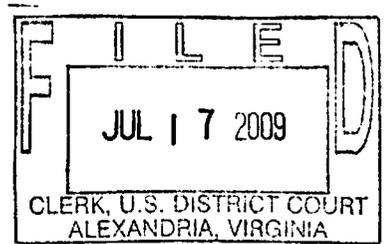


THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division



IN RE: BLACKWATER ALIEN TORT) Civil Action No. 1:09cv615
CLAIMS ACT LITIGATION)

ORDER

The matter came before the Court on defendants' motion to stay discovery (doc. 7).

It appears from a review of the record that this case presents certain legal issues essentially identical to those presented in four additional civil matters also pending in this division, namely 1:09cv616, 1:09cv617, 1:09cv618 and 1:09cv645. It also appears that all of the plaintiffs in these five related matters are represented by the same counsel, as are all of the defendants.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated from the Bench, and for purposes of judicial economy,

It is hereby **ORDERED** that civil actions 1:09cv616, 1:09cv617, 1:09cv618 and 1:09cv645, which actions are currently assigned to other judges in this division, are **REASSIGNED** to the undersigned district judge for the limited purpose of discovery and pre-trial motions.

It is further **ORDERED** that this matter is **CONSOLIDATED** with 1:09cv616, 1:09cv617, 1:09cv618 and 1:09cv645 for all pretrial purposes, including discovery and dispositive motions. Whether the matters will ultimately require separate trials to be presided over by the originally-assigned judges is a question that will be addressed at a later date.

For purposes of simplicity, it is further **ORDERED** that the parties shall hereinafter (i) caption all future pleadings and motions filed in any of these five consolidated matters "*In re: Blackwater Alien Tort Claims Act Litigation*," (ii) list next to the caption on each pleading or motion

the civil action number or numbers to which the particular pleading or motion pertains, and (iii) file each pleading or motion in each applicable civil action or actions.¹

It is further **ORDERED** that defendants' motion to stay discovery (doc. 7) is **GRANTED** and discovery in each of these five consolidated civil actions is accordingly **STAYED** pending resolution of the motions to dismiss filed by defendants in these matters.

It is further **ORDERED** that a hearing on all motions to dismiss filed by defendants in these five consolidated civil actions is **SCHEDULED** for 2:00 p.m., Friday, August 28, 2009.

It is further **ORDERED** that a hearing on any pending motions to seal that have been filed in these matters is **SCHEDULED** for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Order to all counsel of record, and to docket this Order in this case, as well as in each of the four consolidated civil actions, 1:09cv616, 1:09cv617, 1:09cv618 and 1:09cv645.

Alexandria, VA
July 17, 2009



T. S. Ellis, III
United States District Judge

¹ This procedure supersedes the filing instructions stated from the Bench in the course of the July 17, 2009 hearing. As noted from the Bench, the parties should take whatever steps they deem appropriate to minimize duplicative filings of briefs for the Court.