

Breast Implant Cases Update

After months of intensive negotiations among breast implant defendant and plaintiff negotiators, three leading health-care companies recently announced their agreement to pay more than \$3.7 billion towards a proposed global settlement.

Negotiations are continuing in an attempt to include all manufacturers and to bring the settlement pool to \$4.7 billion.

The global settlement agreement is still subject to federal court approval by Judge Pointer. The value of individual cases is unknown at this time. Most likely some sort of administrative process will be used to process claims. Dissatisfied claimants will have the opportunity to opt out of the agreement and pursue their cause of action in the appropriate judicial forum.

Lois Frankel is heading the firm's breast implant team working with women who have been harmed by silicone and saline breast implants. ■