

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

COMMISSIONERS: Deborah Platt Majoras, Chairman
Orson Swindle
Thomas B. Leary
Pamela Jones Harbour
Jon Leibowitz

In the Matter of

North Texas Specialty Physicians,
a corporation.

Docket No. 9312

RESPONDENT'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
[EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION REQUESTED]

Pursuant to Section 4.3(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, Respondent North Texas Specialty Physicians ("NTSP") hereby moves the Commission for an extension of time for the filing of various briefs in this matter. Complaint Counsel have authorized us to state that they join in the relief requested in this motion.

The service of the Initial Decision in this matter on November 17, 2004, has resulted in the initial appeal brief by Respondent being due on Friday, December 17. Even though Respondent filed the second notice of appeal in this case, after Complaint Counsel, it still must file the initial appeal brief. Complaint Counsel's brief, which includes both the initial cross-appeal brief and the answering brief, is currently due on Tuesday, January 18. Respondent's Reply Brief is due on Thursday, February 17, 2005. Complaint Counsel's Rebuttal Brief is due on Monday, February 28, 2005.

Because of the proximity of the briefing schedule to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the current schedule would be a substantial inconvenience and hardship

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. C. Huffman
William M. Katz, Jr.
Gregory D. Binns
Nicole L. Rittenhouse

Thompson & Knight L.L.P.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 3, 2004, I caused a copy of the foregoing document to be served upon the following persons:

Michael Bloom (via Federal Express and e-mail)
Senior Counsel
Federal Trade Commission
Northeast Region
One Bowling Green, Suite 318
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Barbara Anthony (via certified mail)
Director
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New York, NY 10004

Hon. D. Michael Chappell (2 copies via Federal Express)
Administrative Law Judge
Federal Trade Commission
Room H-104
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20580

Office of the Secretary (original and 12 copies via Federal Express)
Donald S. Clark
Federal Trade Commission
Room H-159
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and by e-mail upon the following: Theodore Zang (tzang@ftc.gov) and Jonathan Platt (jplatt@ftc.gov).

Nicole L. Rittenhouse

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ORDER GRANTING RESPONDENT'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Respondent has moved that the Commission grant an extension of time for the filing of briefs on the appeal and cross-appeal of this matter. Section 4.3(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice allows the Commission to extend the time limit prescribed by the Rules of Practice for good cause shown. The Commission has determined to grant Respondent's motion. The time periods prescribed by the Commission Rules of Practice ordinarily should afford parties to FTC proceedings sufficient time to file pleadings and briefs of sufficient quality and detail to aid in the preparation of Commission opinions and orders. The proximity of the current briefing schedule to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, however, coupled with the vast amount of evidence and the numerous legal issues involved in this matter, may interfere with that process.

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED THAT (1) Respondent shall file its Initial Appeal Brief on or before January 14, 2005, and (2) the appeal of Respondent shall be deemed perfected "by the timely filing of an appeal brief," for purposes of Commission Rule 3.51(a), 16 C.F.R. § 3.51(a), if Respondent file its Appeal Brief by that date;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT (1) Complaint Counsel shall file their Answering and Cross-Appeal Brief on or before March 15, 2005, and (2) Complaint Counsel's cross-

