

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
MISSISSIPPI, OXFORD DIVISION

Attala Steel Industries, LLC v. The Travelers Indemnity Company of
America

Attala Steel · No. 4:24-cv-53-SA-JMV · Decided November 25, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi granted counsel Michael V. Pepe and Janie R. Eddy’s motion to withdraw from representing Attala Steel Industries, LLC. The court denied Attala Steel’s request for a 60-day stay of proceedings, concluding that the burdens of a stay outweighed its benefits given the existing discovery and dispositive-motion deadlines and the twice-continued trial date.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, Oxford Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jane M. Virden
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, Oxford Division
DECIDED	November 25, 2025
DOCKET	4:24-cv-53-SA-JMV
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for withdrawal of two attorneys appearing pro hac vice and for a temporary stay of all proceedings and deadlines. The court granted withdrawal but denied the requested stay.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court exercised its discretion to manage its docket and determine whether a stay was warranted by weighing prejudice to the nonmoving party, whether a stay would simplify the issues and trial, and the status of discovery and the trial setting.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Attala Steel Industries, LLC v. The Travelers Indemnity Company of America

TOPICS

civil procedure

insurance coverage

commercial litigation

discovery dispute

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

insurance

commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether plaintiff's attorneys Michael V. Pepe and Janie R. Eddy should be permitted to withdraw when the request was unopposed, consented to by plaintiff, and plaintiff remained represented by other counsel.
2. Whether the court should stay all proceedings and deadlines for sixty days to facilitate plaintiff's transition to new lead counsel.

HOLDINGS

1. The court granted the unopposed request for Michael V. Pepe and Janie R. Eddy to withdraw because good cause existed and withdrawal would not materially adversely affect plaintiff, which remained represented by other attorneys.
2. The court denied plaintiff's request for a sixty-day stay because the burdens of a stay outweighed its benefits.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Having considered the three factors, it is evident that the burdens of a stay outweigh the benefits of a stay at this juncture."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Attala Steel's insurance coverage dispute arose from Travelers' alleged wrongful denial of an insurance claim. Plaintiff requested withdrawal of two attorneys because continued representation had become impracticable, while other attorneys remained available to represent it. Plaintiff also sought a sixty-day stay to allow newly appointed lead counsel to review the record, but discovery was nearly complete, dispositive motions were due soon, and the trial had already been continued twice.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

This insurance coverage action was removed to the Northern District of Mississippi on June 12, 2024. The case had already received two trial continuances, and limited additional fact discovery remained open when plaintiff sought a sixty-day stay to permit newly selected lead counsel to become familiar with the case. The court granted the unopposed withdrawal request and denied the stay.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Golden Rule Fasteners Inc. v. Neverleak Co., LP, No. 3:17-CV-249-MPM-JMV, 2019 WL 257983, at *2 (N.D. Miss. Jan. 17, 2019)
- Peavey Elecs. Corp. v. Music Grp. Servs. US, Inc., No. 3:13-CV-934-HTW-LRA, 2014 WL 12323520, at 2 (S.D. Miss. Mar. 10, 2014)

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