

Last update: October 12, 2005 at 9:15 PM

## **Class-certification ruling in St. Jude valve case reversed**

Published October 13, 2005

The U.S. Court of Appeals on Wednesday reversed a lower court ruling that certified several class-action lawsuits involving the Silzone heart valve made by Little Canada-based St. Jude Medical Inc.

The Eighth Circuit appeals court ruled that the District Court erred in certifying a consumer protection class that sought damages based on Minnesota's consumer protection statutes. It required the lower court to conduct a conflicts-of-law analysis for each plaintiff class member before applying Minnesota law.

The ruling also reversed the District Court's certification of a medical monitoring class involving the products with Silzone coating.

St. Jude's Silzone valve, which was implanted in about 36,000 people worldwide, received Food and Drug Administration approval for use domestically in 1998. It was recalled in 2000.

The valve featured a silver coating on a cuff that was sewn to the patient's body. The silver was thought to combat the infection of cardiac tissue often associated with heart-valve implants. However, the Silzone valves were prone to leak.

JANET MOORE