

# Study Aims to Gauge Litigant Satisfaction in Women's Health MDLs

University of Georgia School of Law professor Elizabeth Chamblee Burch is performing a study focusing on women's health MDLs, including the pelvic mesh litigation, the talc litigation and the litigations involving birth control drugs, like Yasmin/Yaz.

By [Max Mitchell](/author/profile/Max-Mitchell/) | December 17, 2018 at 02:39 PM



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Many law review articles have been written about the procedural challenges for lawyers and judges when it comes to handling multidistrict litigation, but few studies have focused on what hurdles litigants may face when their cases are part of large consolidated actions.

One law professor is looking to change that with a study she is [undertaking](https://www.elizabethchambleeburch.com/womens-mdls) (<https://www.elizabethchambleeburch.com/womens-mdls>) that seeks to hear from litigants who have brought a claim through the MDL process.

University of Georgia School of Law professor Elizabeth Chamblee Burch is performing a study focusing on women's health MDLs, including the [pelvic mesh](https://www.law.com/thelegalintelligencer/2018/12/04/pelvic-mesh-mdl-leadership-defends-settlement-record-as-infighting-ramps-up/) (<https://www.law.com/thelegalintelligencer/2018/12/04/pelvic-mesh-mdl-leadership-defends-settlement-record-as-infighting-ramps-up/>) litigation, the [talc litigation](https://www.law.com/thelegalintelligencer/2018/11/02/plaintiffs-lawyers-fight-to-keep-4-7b-talc-verdict-citing-jjs-perfect-storm-of-misconduct/) (<https://www.law.com/thelegalintelligencer/2018/11/02/plaintiffs-lawyers-fight-to-keep-4-7b-talc-verdict-citing-jjs-perfect-storm-of-misconduct/>) and the litigations involving birth control drugs, like [Yasmin/Yaz](https://www.law.com/thelegalintelligencer/almID/1202733834634/bayer-agrees-to-569m-settlement-program-for-yaz-claims/) (<https://www.law.com/thelegalintelligencer/almID/1202733834634/bayer-agrees-to-569m-settlement-program-for-yaz-claims/>). The study consists of a

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Although many complaints express dissatisfaction with the system as a whole, Burch said she hopes the study will help tease out exactly where the problem areas might be.

With more than 100,000 women involved at its peak, the pelvic mesh MDL was one of the largest consolidated actions ever, according to mass tort attorneys. It is far from the first large-scale litigation where claimants have been openly frustrated with the system—in particular, the \$1 billion class settlement the NFL reached regarding former players with concussion-related injuries has also recently **come under scrutiny** (<https://www.si.com/nfl/2018/10/23/NFL-players-brain-trauma-settlements-receive-little>).

When asked whether dissatisfaction typically always increases the larger the litigation is, or whether dissatisfaction appears to be increasing on the whole, Burch said she can't say for sure, but the study may help provide an answer in the future.

"We don't have a baseline," Burch said. "We don't know how happy people used to be."

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## Max Mitchell

Max Mitchell is a reporter with The Legal Intelligencer, focusing on litigation in Pennsylvania with a specific emphasis on Philadelphia courts. Follow him on Twitter @MMitchellTLI.



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