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### **A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BENEFITS OF MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION**

Recently, with the massive litigation surrounding Toyota's unintended acceleration and BP's oil spill in the Gulf Coast, new attention is being given to multidistrict litigation, according to a July 2, 2010, article in the Los Angeles Daily Journal by Brian Kabateck and Lina Melidonian. Under those scenarios, complex civil lawsuits involving numerous plaintiffs with similar causes of actions pending in multiple venues can be consolidated in one court -- with one judge overseeing pre-trial discovery and motions.

"MDLs have been vastly successful," according to Kabateck and Melidonian. "Multidistrict proceedings allow hundreds if not thousands of related cases to proceed smoothly by avoiding duplicative discovery. They save time and money and increase the potential for global settlement."