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Panel to consider consolidation of Toyota lawsuits

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The Daily Transcript

SAN DIEGO — A panel of federal judges will hold a local hearing next week on whether to consolidate more than 110 class-action lawsuits filed against **Toyota Motor Corp.**

The hearing is planned for March 25 at the Edward J. Schwartz U.S. Courthouse on Front Street, said **Richard Arsenault**, an attorney for Louisiana-based firm **Neblett, Beard & Arsenault**.

The judges, according to the Associated Press, will decide whether the cases can be combined into a single "class" of affected Toyota (NYSE: TM) owners, and whether the case should proceed to trial.

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Toyota

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Arsenault said that consolidation was likely, but the question of where the litigation will be held was up in the air.

"They're going to want to send this to a judge that's experienced. This is a large case, a very complex case," **Arsenault** said. "Someone who has a track record of handling these cases in a very capable, competent and efficient way."

Judges might also consider how close a court is to Toyota production plants, how accessible the court is to witnesses

in Japan and other similar concerns, Arsenault said.

Arsenault will be co-hosting a Toyota Litigation Recall Conference on March 24 at The Westin San Diego hotel. The conference will open a dialogue between all invested parties, discussing topics such as Toyota litigation evidence, multi-district litigation and congressional hearing results. Interested groups include insurers, litigation experts, class-action experts and Toyota representatives, Arsenault said.

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