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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

)	CASE NO.
)	
Plaintiff(s),)	INITIAL STANDING ORDER FOR CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE S. JAMES OTERO
v.)	
)	
Defendant(s).)	

**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY.
IT CONTROLS THIS CASE AND DIFFERS
IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

- Plaintiff(s) must immediately serve this Order on all Defendant(s) along with the Summons and Complaint.
- If this case was assigned to this Court after being removed from state court, the Defendant(s) who removed the case must serve this Order on all other parties.

This case has been assigned to the calendar of Judge S. James Otero. To secure the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of this action, counsel are ordered to familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("Fed. R. Civ. P.") and the Local Rules ("L.R.") of the Central District of California.

1 In an effort to provide further guidance to the parties, the Court notes the following:

- 2 **1. Court Hours:** Civil motions are heard on Monday at 10:00 a.m., unless the Court orders
3 otherwise. (If Monday is a holiday, the next motion date is Tuesday following the holiday.)
4 It is not necessary to clear a motion date. Do not call the clerk to reserve a hearing date;
5 comply with Local Rules.
- 6 **2. Location:** Judge Otero's courtroom is: Courtroom 1, United States District Court, 312
7 North Spring Street, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012.
- 8 **3. E-Filing of Civil Cases:** E-filing is **mandatory** for all new and pending civil cases. The
9 Court adheres to the e-filing practices of the Central District of California (see
10 <http://support.cacd.uscourts.gov>) **with two important exceptions:**
- 11 a. The deadline to e-file a document is 4:00 p.m.; any document e-filed after 4:00 p.m.
12 will be deemed filed on the next court day.
- 13 b. For every e-filed motion and ex parte application, the moving party must e-mail the
14 Court at **Judge Otero's generic e-mail address**
15 **(SJO_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov)** a Word or WordPerfect version of the
16 proposed order, pursuant to the e-filing rules in General Order 08-02.
- 17 **4. Mandatory Chambers Copies:** Mandatory chambers copies are required only for e-filed
18 documents. One mandatory chambers copy must be delivered to the chambers copy box
19 located at the door of Courtroom 1, by 12 noon the day after the document was e-filed.
20 This mandatory chambers copy must be blue-backed and two-hole punched as if it were
21 a manual filing, and the caption page must indicate the date and time the document was
22 e-filed (place date and time of filing below title of filing on the caption page). All original
23 filings not subject to the e-filing requirements are to be filed at the filing window (Clerk's
24 Office, Room G-19, Spring Street Courthouse), NOT in chambers and NOT in the
25 courtroom.
- 26 **5. Telephone Inquiries:** Telephone inquiries regarding the status of a motion, stipulation, or
27 proposed order are not returned. Do not call the clerk to check the docket.
- 28

- 1 **6. Communications with Chambers:** Counsel are not to initiate telephone calls to
2 Judge Otero's chambers, law clerks or assistant. Counsel may access the Court's website
3 (www.cacd.uscourts.gov) for Local Rules, filing procedures, **judges' procedures** and
4 schedules, calendars, forms and Pacer access. Additional questions can be resolved by
5 accessing the Western Division 24-hour automated calling system ((213) 894-1565) or the
6 case docket. Only in the event that counsel cannot find the desired information through all
7 available resources, counsel may contact the Courtroom Deputy Clerk, Victor Cruz, by
8 telephone at (213) 894-1796 or by e-mail at victor_cruz@cacd.uscourts.gov.
- 9 **7. Service of Pleadings:** Plaintiff must promptly serve the Complaint in accordance with Fed.
10 R. Civ. P. 4 and file proof of service pursuant to L.R. 5-3.1. Any defendant not timely
11 served will be dismissed from the action. Any "DOE" or fictitiously named defendant who
12 is not identified and served within 120 days after the case is filed will be dismissed pursuant
13 to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).
- 14 **8. Assignment to a Magistrate Judge:** Under 28 U.S.C. § 636, the parties may consent to
15 have a magistrate judge preside over all proceedings, including trial. Magistrate judges
16 who accept those designations are identified on the Central District's website, which also
17 contains the consent form.
- 18 **9. Temporary Restraining Orders and Injunctions:** Parties seeking emergency or
19 provisional relief must comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65 and L.R. 65.
- 20 **10. Calendar Conflicts:** If there is a calendar conflict, counsel are to inform the Courtroom
21 Deputy Clerk as soon as possible prior to the date of the conflict and are to follow the Local
22 Rules and Federal Rules of Procedure.
- 23 **11. Transcripts:** To order a transcript, e-mail the Court Recording Department at
24 courtrecording_cacd@cacd.uscourts.gov. The Court uses a court recorder,
25 Margarita Lopez. Margarita Lopez may be reached at (213) 894-2717.
- 26 **12. Motions to Reconsider:** L.R. 7-18 is strictly enforced.
- 27 **13. Actions Invoking Subject Matter Jurisdiction Based on Diversity:** To determine a
28 corporation's "principal place of business" for the purposes of diversity jurisdiction, the

1 Court will apply the "nerve center" test, which was adopted by the U.S. Supreme Court in
2 *Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 130 S.Ct. 1181 (2010). The "nerve center" test looks to the single
3 location where the "corporation's high level officers direct, control, and coordinate the
4 corporation's activities." *Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 130 S.Ct. 1181 (2010). The "nerve center"
5 will typically be the corporation's headquarters, provided that the headquarters is the actual
6 center of direction, control, and coordination, and not simply an office where the corporation
7 holds its board meetings. *Id.* For the purposes of simplicity and clarity in jurisdictional
8 matters, the Court has abandoned previous Circuit tests that required complex balancing
9 factors and whose outcomes were difficult to predict. *Id.*

10 The burden of persuasion for establishing diversity jurisdiction remains on the party
11 asserting it and must be supported by competent proof. *Id.* Parties must file an Amended
12 Complaint or Notice of Removal within **fifteen days from the date the action is assigned**
13 **to Judge Otero** if there is a doubt as to whether they have met the test outlined in *Hertz*.
14 Failure to comply may result in dismissal or remand.

15 **14. Timing of Motions:** Parties must strictly comply with L.R. 6-1, 7-9 and 7-10.

16 **15. Scheduling Conference:** Scheduling conferences are held as soon as practicable and not
17 later than 180 days from the filing of the Complaint. Trial counsel must be present.

18 Counsel must timely comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) and file a Joint Rule 26(f)
19 Report within ten days after they meet and confer. The Report must, in addition to
20 addressing the matters specified in Rule 26(f), set forth the parties' views regarding:

- 21 a. A cut-off date for the completion of discovery and the hearing of motions, a final
22 pretrial conference date, and a trial date;
- 23 b. Whether discovery should be conducted in phases or otherwise ordered or limited;
- 24 c. An estimate of the length of trial;
- 25 d. Efforts made to settle or resolve the case to date, and the parties' plans for
26 maximizing settlement prospects;
- 27 e. Whether the case is complex or requires a reference to the procedures set forth in
28 the Manual on Complex Litigation;

- f. The likelihood of the appearance of additional parties;
- g. Dispositive or partially dispositive motions the parties are likely to file;
- h. Any unusual legal issues presented by the case; and
- i. Proposals regarding severance, bifurcation or other ordering of proof.

The Court does not hold telephonic conferences.

16. Patent Cases - Scheduling Conference and Adoption of Local Rules:

- a. Applicability of the Northern District of California Patent Local Rules: The parties are encouraged to use the Northern District of California Patent Local Rules ("P.L.R.") only in complex cases such as those involving computer technology, pharmaceuticals or cases involving Ph.D.-level skill. Parties must state in the Joint Rule 26(f) Report whether the parties have agreed to abide by the P.L.R. If the parties do not agree to use the P.L.R. or disagree only to the time line included therein, they must state their positions for disagreement in the Joint Rule 26(f) Report. In any case, the ultimate decision regarding all scheduling matters, including whether to apply the P.L.R., lies with the Court. The Court will take into consideration several factors, such as: number of patents at issue; number of claims asserted; number of likely disputed claims and the ease with which the parties can identify the claim language that will resolve their dispute; and complexity of the technology.
- b. Claim Construction Hearings: The Court may hold claim construction hearings and hear argument from counsel. However, the Court generally does not hear expert testimony at claim construction hearings.
- c. Joint Claim Construction Chart: The joint claim construction chart must be in a three-column format.
- d. Time Line for Patent Cases Not Using Patent Local Rules: For cases in which the Court has elected not to use the P.L.R., the parties must include proposed deadlines in the Rule 26(f) Report, including expert report dates, discovery cut-off dates and a date for the claim construction hearing.

1 e. Time Line for Patent Cases Using Patent Local Rules: For cases in which the Court
2 has elected to use the P.L.R., parties must include proposed deadlines in the Rule
3 26(f) Report. Parties may find the following list of suggested deadlines and dates
4 helpful in writing their Rule 26(f) Report:

5 (1) One month after the Complaint is filed, the "Disclosure of Asserted Claims
6 and Preliminary Infringement Contentions" under P.L.R. 3-1 is to be served
7 on all parties.

8 (2) Three months after the Complaint is filed is the deadline to amend the
9 pleadings to add and serve new parties, to bring third-party claims or to bring
10 cross-claims.

11 (3) Four months after the Complaint is filed, the "Preliminary Invalidity
12 Contentions" under P.L.R. 3-3 is due.

13 (4) Six months after the Complaint is filed, the "Joint Claim Construction Chart
14 and Prehearing Statement" under P.L.R. 4-3 is due.

15 (5) Seven months after the Complaint is filed, claim construction discovery, both
16 fact and expert, is to be completed.

17 (6) Discovery with regard to damages begins the day after the fact and expert
18 discovery for the claim construction is due.

19 (7) Eight months after the Complaint is filed, the plaintiff's claim construction
20 opening brief is due. Defendant's claim construction opposition is due two
21 weeks after the opening brief is due and the plaintiff's claim construction reply
22 is due two weeks after the opposition is due.

23 (8) Nine months after the Complaint is filed, a claim construction hearing is held.

24 (9) No sooner than one day after the Court's ruling on claim construction but no
25 later than ten months after the filing of the Complaint, the "Final Infringement
26 Contentions" are due, along with any motion for summary judgment
27 regarding infringement.
28

1 (10) No sooner than after the "Final Infringement Contentions" are filed but no
2 later than eleven months after the filing of the Complaint, the "Final Invalidity
3 Contentions" are due, along with any motion for summary judgment
4 regarding invalidity or unenforceability or non-infringement.

5 (11) Eleven months after the filing of the Complaint is the motion cut-off date for
6 all motions other than motions for summary judgment on infringement.

7 (12) Eleven months after the Complaint is filed all discovery must be completed.

8 (13) One week before the trial, the pretrial conference will be held.

9 (14) Fourteen months after the filing of the Complaint, the trial will commence.

10 **17. Discovery:** Discovery motions and applications for discovery protective orders must be
11 scheduled before the magistrate judge assigned to the case.

12 a. Non-Expert Discovery: All expert / non-expert discovery must be **completed** by the
13 discovery cut-off set by the Court. Any motion challenging the adequacy of
14 discovery responses must be calendared sufficiently in advance of the cut-off date
15 to permit any compelled responses to be obtained before that date.

16 b. Non-Expert Depositions: All depositions must commence sufficiently in advance of
17 the discovery cut-off date to permit their completion and to permit the deposing party
18 enough time to bring any discovery motions concerning the deposition prior to the
19 cut-off date. Given the requirements of notice and "meet and confer," this means
20 that in most cases a planned motion to compel must be discussed with opposing
21 counsel approximately six weeks before the cut-off.

22 c. Written Discovery: All interrogatories, requests for production of documents, and
23 requests for admissions must be served sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-
24 off to enable the discovering party to challenge (via motion) deficient responses.

25 d. Discovery Motions: Parties are expected to resolve discovery disputes among
26 themselves in a courteous, reasonable, and professional manner. Absent
27 resolution, the magistrate judge assigned to the case will rule on discovery motions.
28 The Court requires compliance with L.R. 37-1 through 37-4 in the preparation and

1 filing of discovery motions. Any review of a magistrate judge's discovery order must
2 proceed by way of noticed motion under L.R. 7-3. The decision of the magistrate
3 judge is final. The Court will not reverse any such order, including one imposing
4 sanctions, unless the moving party demonstrates that the magistrate judge's order
5 "is clearly erroneous or contrary to law." A motion for review and reconsideration
6 must be filed and served within ten days of a written ruling or within ten days of an
7 oral ruling that the magistrate judge states will not be followed by a written ruling.

- 8 e. Expert Discovery: The parties must meet and confer and agree upon expert
9 disclosure dates as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(2). All disclosures must be made
10 in writing. The parties should commence expert discovery shortly after the initial
11 designation of experts, because the final pretrial conference and trial dates will not
12 be continued merely because expert discovery is still underway.

13 **18. Motions and Motion Cut-Off Date:**

- 14 a. Meet and Confer Requirement: For all cases not exempt under L.R. 16-12, and
15 except in connection with discovery motions, applications for temporary restraining
16 orders or preliminary injunctions, counsel contemplating filing of any motion, shall
17 first contact opposing counsel to "discuss *thoroughly*, preferably in person, the
18 *substance* of the contemplated motion *and any potential resolution*." L.R. 7-3. The
19 Court construes this requirement strictly. Half-hearted attempts at compliance with
20 this rule will not satisfy counsel's obligation. The parties must discuss the
21 substantive grounds for the motion and attempt to reach an accord that would
22 eliminate the need for the motion. The Court strongly emphasizes that under L.R. 7-
23 3, discussions of the substance of contemplated motions are to take place, if at all
24 possible, in person. Only in exceptional cases will a telephonic conference be
25 allowed. All motions must include a declaration by counsel briefly describing the
26 parties' discussion and attempt to eliminate the need for the motion and the date of
27 such discussion. Filings not in compliance with L.R. 7-3 will be denied.

28

1 b. Unless required to be filed electronically as referenced in Paragraph 7 of this Order,
2 all motions, oppositions and replies must be filed at the filing window (Clerk's Office,
3 Room G-19, Spring Street Courthouse). If mailing a civil filing, direct documents to:
4 Filing Window, Civil Section, Clerk's Office, Room G-19, 312 North Spring Street,
5 Los Angeles, California 90012.

6 c. All law and motion matters, except for motions in limine, must be set for hearing (not
7 filing) by the motion hearing cut-off date. Issues left undetermined after passage of
8 the cut-off date should be listed as issues for trial in the final pretrial conference
9 order. As an exception, motions in limine dealing with evidentiary matters will be
10 heard (at the Court's discretion) at the start of trial; however, the Court will not hear
11 or resolve summary judgment motions disguised as motions in limine.

12 d. **Local Rule 7 governs the form of motions.** See generally L.R. 7. If a party does
13 not oppose a motion, that party must file a statement of non-opposition. L.R. 7-16.
14 Failure to meet the time limits set forth in L.R. 7 may be deemed consent to the
15 granting of the motion. L.R. 7-12. The Court will not decide late-filed motions, and
16 a party or counsel who files such late papers may be subject to sanctions under L.R.
17 7-13. Reply papers are limited to argument and authorities responsive to the
18 opposition papers. The Court will not address new matter that was improperly
19 introduced.

20 **19. Motions - Form and Length:** All pleadings must comply with L.R. 11, except that no
21 memorandum or points and authorities or opposition may exceed twenty pages, excluding
22 indices and exhibits, unless permitted by the Court. No reply may exceed five pages.

23 a. Summary Judgment Motions: Parties need not wait until the motion cut-off to bring
24 motions for summary judgment or partial summary judgment. The moving party is
25 expected to provide more than the minimum twenty-eight day notice. Because
26 these motions are fact-dependent, parties should prepare papers in a fashion that
27 will assist the Court in absorbing the mass of facts (e.g., tables of contents,
28 headings, indices). The parties are to comply precisely with L.R. 56-1 through 56-4.

- 1 b. Without prior permission of the Court, no party may file more than one motion
2 pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 regardless of whether such motion is denominated
3 as a motion for summary judgment or summary adjudication.
- 4 c. Statement of Undisputed Facts and Statement of Genuine Issues: The separate
5 statement of undisputed facts must be prepared in a two-column format. The left-
6 hand column sets forth the allegedly undisputed fact. The right-hand column sets
7 forth the evidence that supports the factual statement. The opposing party's
8 statement of genuine issues must be in two columns and track the movant's
9 separate statement exactly as prepared. The opposing party may submit additional
10 material facts that bear on or relate to the issues raised by the movant, which must
11 follow the format described above for the moving party's separate statement.
- 12 d. Supporting Evidence: Supporting evidence should be submitted either by way of
13 stipulation or as exhibits to declarations sufficient to authenticate the proffered
14 evidence, and should not be attached to the memorandum of points and authorities.
15 Documentary evidence as to which there is no stipulation regarding foundation must
16 be accompanied by the testimony of a witness who can establish authenticity.
- 17 e. Objections to Evidence: If a party disputes a fact based in whole or in part on an
18 evidentiary objection, the ground of the objection, as indicated above, should be
19 stated in a separate statement but not argued in that document.
- 20 f. Oral Argument: If the Court deems a matter appropriate for decision without oral
21 argument, the Court will notify the parties in advance.
- 22 g. Amici Status: The Court has broad discretion to appoint amicus curiae. Interested
23 parties must request leave of the Court before filing an amicus brief, by showing:
24 (1) That they have a "special interest" in the case;
25 (2) That this interest is not represented competently or at all;
26 (3) That they present information that is both timely and useful; and
27 (4) That they are not partial to a particular outcome of the case.
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- 1 **20. Requests for Extensions of Time to File Documents or Continue Dates:** The deadlines
2 and requirements set by the Court are firm. No stipulations extending scheduling
3 requirements or modifying applicable rules are effective unless and until approved by the
4 Court. Applications and stipulations must set forth:
- 5 a. The existing due date or hearing date;
 - 6 b. Specific, concrete reasons supporting good cause for granting the extension. A
7 statement that an extension "will promote settlement" is insufficient. The requesting
8 party or parties must indicate the status of ongoing negotiations (i.e., Have written
9 proposals been exchanged? Is counsel reviewing a draft settlement agreement?
10 Has a mediator been selected?); and
 - 11 c. Whether there have been prior requests for extensions, and whether these were
12 granted or denied by the Court.

13 The pretrial conference and trial dates will not be continued solely because the parties are
14 in the process of settling or have "settled." If the parties wish to avoid the pretrial
15 conference or trial, a valid stipulated dismissal under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41 must be filed at
16 least one court day in advance.

- 17 **21. Ex Parte Applications:** Ex parte applications are discouraged. *Mission Power Eng'g Co.*
18 *v. Cont'l Casualty Co.*, 883 F. Supp. 488 (C.D. Cal. 1995). Strictly comply with L.R. 7-19.

- 19 **22. Settlement:** L.R. 16-15 requires the parties to participate in one of the settlement
20 procedures set forth in the Rule. The settlement conference must be concluded not later
21 than thirty days before the pretrial conference. The Court may hold and preside over the
22 settlement conference in certain cases. The Court on its own motion may set a settlement
23 conference at any time following the scheduling conference. If the settlement conference
24 is set before this Court, the parties must comply with L.R. 16-15.5.

- 25 **23. Procedures for Settlement Conferences Held Before Judge Otero:**

- 26 a. Settlement Conference Briefs: The parties must submit confidential settlement
27 conference briefs to chambers in accordance with L.R. 16-15 **five days** before the
28

1 conference, and must exchange non-confidential letters with all other parties of
2 record. Each confidential settlement conference brief must contain:

- 3 (1) A summary of the important issues and the party's position on each issue;
- 4 (2) A summary regarding damages in a non-conclusory form; and
- 5 (3) A summary on the course of any prior settlement negotiations.

6 The brief must be concise, and large numbers of exhibits may not be appended.
7 Proposals for settlement and counsel's evaluation of the case not yet communicated
8 to opposing counsel must be included in the confidential settlement letter.

9 b. Persons Present: All persons whose consent is necessary to conclude settlement
10 must be present at the settlement conference. Counsel are responsible for ensuring
11 that all persons and parties are present.

12 c. The Conference: The Court will confer with the attorneys and representatives jointly
13 and separately. Each party must be prepared to negotiate for as long as prospects
14 of settlement are not foreclosed. The Court may confer with the parties in the
15 presence of their attorneys. If settlement is reached, it will be placed on the record
16 at the conclusion of the conference.

17 **24. Trial Preparation:**

18 a. Pretrial Conference and L.R. 16 Filings

19 The final pretrial conference ("PTC") will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the date set by the Court,
20 unless expressly waived by the Court at the scheduling conference. The lead trial attorney
21 on behalf of each party must attend the PTC and all meetings in preparation thereof. A
22 continuance of the PTC at the parties' request or by stipulation is unlikely. Failure to
23 complete discovery is not a ground for continuance.

24 At the PTC, parties should be prepared to discuss means of streamlining the trial,
25 including: bifurcation; presentation of foundational and non-critical testimony by deposition
26 excerpts, narrative summaries and stipulations as to the content of testimony; and
27 qualification of experts by admitted resumes. The Court will also discuss settlement.
28

1 If counsel fail to file the required pretrial documents or fail to appear at the PTC and
2 such failure is not otherwise satisfactorily explained to the Court: (a) the case will be
3 dismissed for failure to prosecute, if such failure occurs on the part of the plaintiff;
4 (b) default judgment will be entered, if such failure occurs on the part of the defendant; or
5 (c) the Court may take such action as it deems appropriate. Failure of counsel to strictly
6 follow the provisions of this Order may subject the non-complying party and its attorney to
7 sanctions and may constitute a waiver of jury trial.

8 b. Pretrial Documents Must Comply with the Local Rules

9 (1) Pretrial Conference Order ("PTCO"): The [Proposed] PTCO must be lodged
10 seven calendar days before the PTC. Parties are to consult Appendix A to
11 the Local Rules in preparing the PTCO. In addition, parties must heed the
12 following:

- 13 (a) Include a table of contents at the beginning of the PTCO.
- 14 (b) Place in "all caps" and in "bold" the separately numbered headings for
15 each category in the PTCO (e.g., "**1. THE PARTIES**").
- 16 (c) In specifying the surviving pleadings under section 1 of Appendix A,
17 state which claims or counterclaims have been dismissed or
18 abandoned (e.g., "Plaintiff's first cause of action for fraud has been
19 dismissed.") In multiple party cases where not all claims will be
20 prosecuted against all remaining parties on the opposing side, specify
21 to which party each claim is directed.
- 22 (d) In drafting the PTCO, the parties must attempt to agree on and set
23 forth as many uncontested facts as possible. These facts are usually
24 read to the jury at the start of trial. A carefully drafted stipulation of
25 facts will reduce the length of trial and increase jury understanding of
26 the case.
- 27 (e) In drafting the factual issues in dispute for the PTCO, the parties must
28 state issues in ultimate fact form, not in the form of evidentiary fact

1 issues. The issues of fact should track the elements of a claim or
2 defense on which the jury will be required to make findings.

3 (f) Issues of law should state legal issues on which the Court will be
4 required to rule during the trial, and should not list ultimate fact issues
5 to be submitted to the trier of fact.

6 (2) Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law: Not later than twenty-one days
7 in advance of the PTC, each party must serve and file a memorandum of
8 contentions of fact and law containing a summary of the parties' basic factual
9 contentions supported by legal authority in the form of a legal brief. L.R. 16-
10 4.

11 (3) Joint Witness List: Not later than twenty-one days in advance of the PTC,
12 the parties must submit a joint witness list in accordance with L.R. 16-5,
13 except that the parties need not submit separate witness lists. The joint
14 witness list must identify:

15 (a) All witnesses who will actually testify at trial. Failure to include the
16 name of a witness may preclude a party from calling that witness.

17 (b) Trial Witness Estimate: The witness list and summary must give
18 accurate time estimates for each witness to conduct direct, cross, re-
19 direct, and re-cross. Counsel must include a summary of the
20 testimony of each witness. If more than one witness is offered on the
21 same subject matter, each summary must enable the Court to
22 determine if the testimony is cumulative.

23 (c) Expert Witnesses: An expert witness's direct testimony must consist
24 of a description of the expert's background and contents of her Rule
25 26 Report.

26 (4) Joint Exhibit List: Not later than twenty-one days in advance of the PTC, the
27 parties must submit a joint exhibit list in accordance with L.R. 16-6.1 and
28 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3)(A)(iii). The list must also include an appropriate

1 identification of each document or exhibit which the party expects to offer for
2 impeachment purposes and those which the party may offer if the need
3 arises. The list must be substantially in the form indicated by the following
4 example:

5 *Case Title:* _____ *Case No.:* _____

6 *Exhibit No. Description Date Identified Date Admitted*

7 Counsel must meet and confer and stipulate to authenticity and other
8 foundational objections. Place exhibits in binders with each exhibit properly
9 marked and tabbed.

- 10 (5). Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation: The parties must prepare a pretrial exhibit
11 stipulation containing each party's numbered list of all trial exhibits, with
12 objections to each exhibit and the offering party's response. All exhibits to
13 which there is no objection will be admitted. All parties must stipulate to the
14 authenticity of exhibits whenever possible. Identify any exhibits whose
15 authenticity has not been stipulated to and the specific reasons for the
16 parties' failure to stipulate. The stipulation must be in the following form:

17 *Plaintiff's Exhibits*

18 *Exhibit No. Description If Objection, State Grounds Response to Objection*

19 *Defendant's Exhibits*

20 *Exhibit No. Description If Objection, State Grounds Response to Objection*

21 The pretrial exhibit stipulation must be filed at the same time counsel lodge
22 the PTCO. Failure to so comply may constitute a waiver of all objections.

- 23 (6) Motions in Limine Are Heard the First Day of Trial and Must Conform to the
24 Local Rules and the Following Format:

- 25 (a) The parties must file any motions in limine thirty-five days before the
26 trial date. Any opposition must be filed seven days thereafter. Any
27 reply must be filed seven days thereafter. In addition, five court days
28

1 before the PTC, each party must deliver to chambers a three-ring
2 binder of its motions in limine, together with the objections and replies.

3 (b) If any of the issues addressed in said motions were raised in prior
4 proceedings, counsel are to identify the proceedings and relevant
5 pleadings.

6 (c) The binders must be clearly marked as to their content (e.g., Plaintiff's
7 Motions in Limine Nos. 1-9) and each motion must be separated by
8 marked dividers, identifying the particular motion. The spine of each
9 binder must include the case name and number as well as the content
10 of the binder.

11 (d) Binders should only contain the points of law, no declarations.

12 (e) Points and authorities, including motions in limine, may not exceed ten
13 pages. Opposition to points and authorities may not exceed ten
14 pages. Replies to points and authorities may not exceed five pages.

15 (f) In lodging deposition transcripts, counsel must stipulate to their
16 authenticity.

17 (7) Jury Instructions and Verdict Forms: At the PTC, counsel must submit the
18 text of each jury instruction in two sets.

19 (a) Set one consists of instructions that all parties agree should be
20 submitted to the jury, and includes general and substantive
21 instructions, a verdict form, and, if necessary, special interrogatories.
22 "Substantive jury instructions" means all instructions relating to the
23 elements of all claims and defenses in the case. Parties should also
24 submit standard and general instructions.

25 (b) Set two consists of instructions that are objected to. Proposed special
26 verdict forms are to be included. This second set must include a joint
27 statement regarding the disputed instructions, verdicts and
28 interrogatories. In the joint statement, place the text of the disputed

1 instruction (or verdict or interrogatory) with an identification of the
2 party proposing it. Following that text, place the opposing party's
3 statement of objections with legal authority in support thereof (one
4 page or less) and proposed alternative language if appropriate. The
5 entirety of the objection must be typed in capital letters.

6 (c) A table of contents must be included with all jury instructions
7 submitted to the Court. The table of contents must set forth: (i) the
8 number of the instruction; (ii) a brief title of the instruction; (iii) the
9 source of the instruction; and (iv) the page number of the instruction.

10 For example:

<i>Number</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Page Number</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(Burden of Proof)</i>	<i>(cite)</i>	<i>(5)</i>

13 (d) The Court prefers counsel to use instructions from the Manual of
14 Model Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit where applicable. Where
15 California law is to be applied, the Court requires counsel to use the
16 State of California Judicial Council Approved Civil Jury Instructions.

17 (e) Modifications of instructions from the foregoing sources (or any other
18 form instructions) must specifically state the modification made to the
19 original form instruction and the authority supporting the modification.

20 (8) Joint Statement of the Case and Voir Dire: The Court conducts voir dire. At
21 the PTC, the parties must submit separate proposed voir dire questions and
22 a one page joint statement of the case, which is read to the jury pool. The
23 parties need not submit requests for standard voir dire questions, but should
24 include only proposed questions specifically tailored to the parties and issues
25 of the case.

26 (9) Real-Time Reporting Requirement: At the PTC, each party must submit to
27 the Deputy Clerk a typed list of proper names, unusual or scientific terms, or
28 any other uncommon words that are likely to be used during the trial.

- 1 c. Bench Trial:
- 2 (1) Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law: The parties must lodge their
- 3 proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law no later than seven days
- 4 before trial and deliver to chambers a digital copy of these findings in
- 5 WordPerfect format. L.R. 52-1.
- 6 (2) Narrative Statements: The judge requires that the direct testimony of a
- 7 witness be presented by written narrative statement subject to
- 8 cross-examination at trial, to be adopted by the witness orally in open court,
- 9 unless such requirement is waived. L.R. 43-1.
- 10 d. **Installation of equipment-** If counsel need to arrange for the installation of thier
- 11 own additional equipment, such as a video monitor, overhead projector, etc., refer
- 12 to the Court website at www.cacd.uscourts.gov under "Services" in order to reserve
- 13 this equipment so that necessary arrangements can be made. ELMO
- 14 reservations/tutorials may be made through the Space and Facilities Help Desk,
- 15 (213) 894-1400.
- 16 e. **Voluminous exhibits:** Arrangements for bringing voluminous exhibits into the
- 17 courtroom may be made through Space and Facilities Help Desk.

18 **25. Instructions Governing Procedure During Trial**

- 19 a. Civil trials are held Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from
- 20 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 21 b. Opening statements, examination of witnesses, and closing arguments should be
- 22 made from the lectern only.
- 23 c. Counsel shall not refer to their clients or any witness by their first names during trial.
- 24 e. When objecting, counsel shall state only that counsel is objecting and the legal
- 25 ground of the objection, e.g., hearsay, irrelevant, etc. Counsel shall *not* argue an
- 26 objection before the jury.
- 27 f. Counsel shall *not* approach the Courtroom Deputy Clerk or the witness box without
- 28 the Court's permission.

- 1 g. Counsel shall return to the lectern when his or her purpose has been accomplished.
- 2 h. Counsel shall *not* enter the well of the Court without the Court's permission.
- 3 i. Counsel shall rise when addressing the Court. In jury cases, please rise when the
4 jury enters or leaves the courtroom.
- 5 j. Counsel shall address all remarks to the Court.
- 6 k. Counsel shall not directly address the Courtroom Deputy Clerk, the reporter, or
7 opposing counsel.
- 8 l. If counsel wish to speak with opposing counsel, counsel shall ask permission to talk
9 to counsel OFF THE RECORD.
- 10 m. All requests for the re-reading of questions or answers or to have an exhibit placed
11 in front of a witness shall be addressed to the Court.
- 12 n. Counsel shall not make an offer of stipulation unless counsel has conferred with
13 opposing counsel and reached an agreement.
- 14 o. While the court is in session, counsel shall not leave the counsel table to confer with
15 investigators, secretaries, or witnesses unless permission is granted in advance.
- 16 p. When a party has more than one lawyer, only one may conduct the examination of
17 any given witness and only that same lawyer may handle objections during the
18 testimony of that witness.
- 19 q. If a witness was on the stand at a recess or adjournment, counsel shall have the
20 witness back on the stand and ready to proceed when Court resumes.
- 21 r. Counsel shall not run out of witnesses. If counsel is out of witnesses and there is
22 more than a brief delay, the Court may deem that counsel has rested.
- 23 s. The Court attempts to cooperate with doctors and other professional witnesses and
24 will, except in extraordinary circumstances, accommodate them by permitting them
25 to be out of sequence. Counsel should anticipate any such possibility and discuss
26 it with opposing counsel. If there is an objection, counsel shall confer with the Court
27 in advance.
- 28 t. Counsel are advised to be on time as the Court starts promptly.

1 u. Counsel should not by facial expression, nodding, or other conduct exhibit any
2 opinions, adverse or favorable, concerning any testimony which is being given by
3 a witness. Counsel should similarly admonish their own clients and witnesses to
4 avoid such conduct.

5 v. SPEAK UP when making an objection, the acoustics in the courtroom make it
6 difficult for all to hear an objection when it is being made.

7 Failure to conform with this Order may be deemed a waiver of trial by jury and may result
8 in sanctions. The Local Rules and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure control any issue not
9 specifically addressed in this Order. For further information regarding the Court's preferences,
10 refer to www.cacd.uscourts.gov > Judges' Procedures and Schedules > Hon. S. James Otero.

11 The Court thanks counsel and the parties for their anticipated cooperation. Counsel are
12 advised to check the Court's procedures regularly, as they are subject to change.

13
14 DATED:

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16 S. JAMES OTERO
17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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