

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

,

Plaintiff(s),

CIVIL NO.

v.

,

Defendant(s).

_____ /

SCHEDULING ORDER (NON-JURY)

The court has considered a written Rule 26(f) plan, held a scheduling conference or both, and advises counsel to carefully read the provisions of this Order. The court seldom extends, but may shorten, the deadlines established in this Order (e.g., if no dispositive motion is filed by the deadline for such action, the court may advance all remaining dates by 60 days or more).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. ELECTRONIC FILING:

Use of the court's electronic filing system ("CM/ECF") is mandatory. Chambers' copies of *most* papers filed electronically need not be submitted (but see "Motion Guidelines," ¶ 7, below).

2. **AMENDMENTS:**

Any motion to add an allegedly indispensable party under Fed. R. Civ. P. 19 must be filed, or be deemed waived, not later than. Any motion to amend the complaint, answer or defenses must be based on reasonable cause and, if based on newly discovered information, be made promptly after receipt of the information upon which the proposed amendment is based.

3. **DISCOVERY DEADLINE:**

The deadline for completing (not simply scheduling) court-supervised discovery is. A response to a discovery demand, including interrogatories and requests to admit, that would be due under the Federal Rules in 33 days (30 days plus an additional 3 days for mailing) in this case is **due on the 28th day following service**. A discovery demand that is served such that a response is not due before the discovery deadline is deemed of no effect unless counsel agree to comply in spite of the discovery deadline. Extensions of court-supervised discovery are not ordinarily granted in the absence of unusual circumstances. Although unsupervised discovery is sometimes agreed to among counsel, court deadlines are not changed based upon mere agreement. Any proposed protective order should include language limiting the amount of material filed under seal as described on this court's website.¹

¹ See http://www.mied.uscourts.gov/_practices/Cleland/discovery.htm

4. PRELIMINARY AND FINAL WITNESS LISTS:

In order to properly orient each party to the expected trial position of the opposing side, each party must deliver a **preliminary witness list**, to the opposing party and file a copy with the court on or before.

Each party must deliver a **final witness list**, to the opposing party and file a copy with the court on or before. The list must constitute a full good-faith disclosure of each witness who is both known to the party and intended at that time to be called at trial. In the event that a party desires to supplement the list with additional witnesses, the party may do so by stipulation or, if a stipulation is not forthcoming, with a motion supported by a showing of good cause. Witness lists must include after each witness's name an informative synopsis (one or two sentences) outlining the witness's expected testimony.

5. EXPERT REPORTS REQUIRED BY Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a) (2) (B):

The report of a proposed expert witness for Plaintiff must be provided to opposing counsel **not later than fifty-six days (eight weeks) before the end of discovery**. Plaintiff's expert must be available and prepared for deposition within **fourteen days** after the date the expert report is provided (i.e., not later than six weeks before the end of discovery).

The report of any proposed expert witness for Defendant must be provided to opposing counsel **not later than twenty-eight days (four weeks) before the end of discovery**. Defendant's expert must be available and prepared for deposition within

fourteen days after the date the expert report is provided (i.e., not later than two weeks before the end of discovery.

In the event that a 26(a)(2)(B) report and deposition availability is not provided as required herein, the proposed expert testimony may be excluded. Expert reports are not to be filed with the court unnecessarily (e.g., an expert report might be filed as an exhibit to a *Daubert* motion).

6. DISPOSITIVE MOTION DEADLINE:

The deadline for filing pretrial motions requiring extensive briefing and consideration (including motions under Rule 56 and those challenging a purported expert under *Daubert v Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc*, 509 U. S. 579 (1993)) is .

7. MOTION GUIDELINES:

a) Concurrence. Before filing **any motion**, read and closely follow E. D. Mich. LR 7.1(a)(2) in seeking concurrence. Moving counsel must **specifically report** the events that lead to concurrence being refused. Unreasonable withholding of consent may lead to sanctions under LR 7.1(a)(3), as may the absence (or functional absence) of effort to seek an agreement that was later accomplished upon the motion being filed.

b) Form issues.

1) Chambers' copies of complex briefs. The court does not require chambers' copies of rudimentary and reasonably concise motions and briefs. However, motions that are complex and accompanied by extensive briefs and numerous exhibits are requested to be provided in physical form as chambers' copies. Generally, if a brief exceeds **twenty pages**, or

is accompanied by more than **five exhibits or exhibits totaling more than twenty pages**, a chambers' copy should be provided. Please deliver such chambers' copies within 48 hours after the brief is filed.

ii) Binding: *avoid top-punching of chambers' copies.*

Bind any judge's or chambers' copies of briefs and appendices with a staple in the upper left corner unless more than about 20 pages are presented, in which case please bind in "book form" along the left margin.

iii) Page limits on text. The "text" of a brief as discussed in Local Rule 7.1(c)(3) includes things such as the case summary and argument, but does not apply to the statement of facts, table of contents, index of authorities, etc.

iv) Avoid presenting a "Notice of hearing." This court always sets its own hearing dates, and it is a waste of time and paper to include a "Notice of Hearing" form in your motion. Such notices are not required either by the Federal or Local Rules.

c) Time of Filing. Dismissal Motions may be filed at any time. Summary Judgment Motions *usually* are filed closely following the end of discovery; those filed much earlier often must wait for additional discovery to be completed. In municipal liability cases, motions to dismiss for qualified immunity, if based on pleadings, raise only questions of law and are to be filed before discovery commences.

d) Briefing and Hearings. Responses to motions in this case are due as specified in the Federal and Local Rules. The court may set other specific, shorter

dates for responses and replies in some motions. An “oral argument” or “hearing” date *may* be identified, but this is an internal court scheduling device and not a guarantee that argument will be conducted. A motion may be decided on the briefs only, and sometimes just days before argument. Short extensions of deadlines that do not affect other deadlines may be granted by the court’s Case Manager Lisa Wagner. Counsel must seek concurrence before contacting the court.

e) Hearings by telephone. The court will on its own initiative or at the request of counsel conduct some conferences and hearings by telephone or video conference; other reasonable suggestions that may reduce time, expense, and inconvenience require to resolve a case are invited.

f) Motion Standards. Clearly describe the standard governing your motion, but please avoid lengthy boilerplate recitations of legal standards or lengthy “string cites” in support of well-established principles. On the merits, please focus your analysis on a few well-chosen cases, preferably recent and from controlling courts. You are encouraged to lodge with judge’s chambers copies of your main cases, with relevant passages highlighted and tabbed (an equivalent copy to be provided to opposing counsel, but not to be filed with the Clerk). Copies of multiple cases, if provided, are to be submitted in a separate “case appendix” beginning with an index.

g) Rule 56 Motion Statement of Material Facts; format of “fact appendix.”
A Rule 56 motion must begin with a “Statement of Material Facts.” Such a Statement is to be included as the first section of the Rule 56 Motion, but the pages of that section do not count against the page limits for briefs. The “Statement” must consist of numbered

paragraphs briefly describing the material facts underlying the motion. Each proffered fact is to be supported by a citation to record evidence, presented in a separate Fact Appendix.² The response to a Rule 56 motion must begin with a “Counter-statement of Material Facts” if any of the moving party’s proffered facts are contested. The paragraph numbering must correspond to the first Statement of Facts. Any proffered fact in the movant’s Statement of Material Facts that is not specifically contested will, for the purpose of the motion be deemed admitted.³

The factual record is to be contained in a separate “Fact Appendix.” Begin the appendix with an index, followed by the tabbed exhibits. Submit enough of a document or deposition to allow it to be read in context, but avoid unnecessarily submitting things, including depositions, *in toto*. Documents and exhibits such as interrogatories, deposition and affidavits provided in the appendix should be highlighted to focus attention on your point.

² Examples of movant’s separate material factual statements:

1. Plaintiff Jones worked for ABC Corp., in and at-will position from 1999 until his termination in 2005. Jones dep., Appdx Ex.4, pg.10.

25. ABC Corp. Human Resources Director Smith testified that the only reason Jones was terminated was repeated tardiness. Smith dep., Appdx. Ex. 15, pg.5.

³ For examples of non-movant’s corresponding factual statements:

1. Plaintiff admits that he worked for ABC Corp., in an at-will position, but the commencement of employment was in 1197. Jones dep., Appdx Ex. E, pg.22.

25.Plaintiff admits that Human Resources Director Smith testified at page 5 that Jones was terminated for tardiness, however Smith also agreed that he siad in an email to ABC Corp. Vice President Broen that Jones shuld “move out” since he was “getting along in years.” Smith dep., Appdx Ex. 15, pg 39.

Chambers' copies of fact appendices of more than 20 pages must be separately bound and include a cover sheet identifying the motion to which they are appended. All pages from the same deposition or document should be at the same tab.

h) The court endeavors to decide pending motions promptly, ordinarily within four weeks after a hearing or within two weeks after the time for a response has passed without a response being filed. Complex motions or those raising novel issues may require additional time to conclude. If a motion has been pending in chambers without resolution for an apparently inordinate time, counsel are asked to notify the court's case manager by telephone or in writing (jointly if possible) as to the status of the motion. Such notification is a service that is appreciated by the court and is not viewed by the court as inappropriate or impertinent.

8. MOTIONS IN LIMINE:

Motions in limine must be filed on or before. The court will not receive Motions in limine on the day of trial without good cause shown for the delay. "Motions in limine," as used here, indicates the relatively uncomplicated cautionary motions often seen at the commencement of a case. A motion, even if labeled as one "*in limine*," which will require extensive briefing and consideration (such as a *Daubert* motion; see section 5, above) must be filed in accordance with the deadline for filing dispositive motions.

9. FILING PROPOSED FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS:

Plaintiff's counsel is ORDERED to file not later than a joint document containing proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law with each proposed fact or conclusion set forth separately in numbered paragraphs, and supported by a citation to the record as it then exists.⁴

Plaintiff's counsel must draft an initial version of proposed findings and conclusions. Plaintiff's draft must be circulated to counsel for each of the remaining parties, who must then indicate those paragraphs with which they agree and those with which they disagree. Where there is disagreement, objecting counsel is directed to draft alternative or additional proposals reflecting that party's client's position. It is then the responsibility of Plaintiff's counsel to incorporate the suggested modifications into the single document referred to above.

The exact format of this submission is left to the discretion of counsel,⁵ but will be used by the court as a template for the consideration of evidence at trial and the construction of its own findings and conclusions.

⁴ Anticipated trial testimony may be cited as such with a reference to the particular witness or witnesses expected to support the proposed fact.

⁵ The court suggests a columnar format similar to this example:

P.'s fact, with support cited	D.'s reaction (agree/disagree and cite support)	D.'s alternate/additional fact, with support cited	P.'s reaction (agree/disagree and cite support)
#22 Mr. Smith was not shown the addendum before he signed the contract. Smith deposition 5/12/03, p. 50, line 15-22	Agree that Smith so testified, but Smith is not credible.	Jones showed Smith the addendum the week before Smith executed the contract. Jones dep. of 6/1/03, p. 44, line 12-20.	Agree that there is a conflict between Smith's and Jones's testimony, but argue that Jones is not credible due to inconsistent explanations. See Jones dep. of 1/15/03, p. 26; Jones letter of 12/2/02 (Ex. 110).

10. JOINT FINAL PRETRIAL STATEMENT:

Plaintiff's counsel must submit a proposed joint final pretrial order pursuant to Local Rule 16.2 to chambers on or before.

11. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE; POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE:

a) The court will conduct in chambers a Final Pretrial Conference under the provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 16(d) on, **at 2:00 p.m.** Trial counsel for all parties must attend.

b) If the parties desire a settlement conference they should timely notify the court and a date will be set in a separate order, another judicial officer will preside at the conference. In preparation for such a settlement conference, the parties must proceed as follows:

i) Demand and response. Plaintiff must transmit a clear, written and good faith settlement demand insuring that it is received by defendant not later than 14 days before the conference. Defendant must respond to that demand in writing, clearly and in good faith, insuring that it is received by plaintiff not later than 7 days before the conference. Further communication is strongly encouraged.

ii) Attendance. The following persons and entities are hereby ORDERED to personally attend the conference:

- **Trial counsel** for each party;
- **All parties** who are natural persons;
- **A representative** on behalf any other party;

- **A representative of any insurance carrier** which has undertaken the prosecution or defense of the case and has contractually reserved to itself the ability to settle the action.

A “representative” must possess full authority to engage in settlement discussions and to agree upon a full and final settlement. “Full authority” is measured by the last demand of plaintiff and authority must extend at least to that level. The requirement that each party “personally attend” is not satisfied by trial counsel professing to have full authority and attending on behalf of the client. Being “available by telephone” does not equal “personally attending” the conference. A party who disregards these conference requirements risks fines, costs, fees, foreclosure of witnesses, loss of claims or loss of defenses under Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f) and Local Rule 16.1.

12. NON-JURY TRIAL SCHEDULE:

This case is assigned for trial on the court's trailing docket for.

Counsel must be prepared for and trial *as early as the first or as late as the last business day of that period*. Counsel are directed to make whatever adjustments that may be required in trial or vacation schedules as soon as possible. The case manager will prepare and circulate a printed docket containing the civil cases to be heard, in order, and the names and telephone numbers of the attorneys responsible for each case on the docket. The docket should be in the hands of counsel by about one month before the docket begins. It is the responsibility of counsel to be in contact with each

other to determine their place on the docket, as cases ahead of them may settle and a later case may thereby move up the list.

13. EXHIBITS; EXAMINING, PRE-MARKING AND LISTING:

Plaintiff's counsel is hereby ORDERED to convene a meeting of the attorneys at which all counsel are ORDERED to meet and:

a) identify any objections as to authenticity, foundation, relevance, etc., of *each* proposed exhibit and deposition. Each party's exhibits and depositions must then be listed separately, first those as to which there are no objections, and second those as to which there are objections. An "exhibit" includes both those which a party fully intends to introduce and those which the party simply *might* introduce. A "deposition" includes redacted portions thereof intended for trial use. Agreed-upon exhibits and depositions, identified on a separate listing and prepared for submission to the court as explained more fully in ¶14(a), below, will be considered admitted at the outset of trial and may be used by either party at any time.

b) supply to opposing counsel in writing the reason(s) for the withholding of such stipulation or assertions of such objections as to each exhibit proposed by the opposing party as to which counsel has objected or withheld stipulation.

c) arrange to number and label all exhibits (both those agreed to and those objected to) IN ADVANCE OF TRIAL (court time cannot be used for the labeling of exhibits and the court's reporter does not label exhibits for counsel). Plaintiff should use exhibit numbers beginning with 101 and defendant should use numbers beginning with

501. In the event of an extraordinarily large number of exhibits or for other reasons, counsel should agree upon a reasonable alteration to Π -101 / Δ -501 numbering.

14. EXHIBIT LISTS, TRIAL BRIEFS AND ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION:

a) Counsel for plaintiff is ORDERED by:

- i)** to file a list of exhibits, the admissibility of which is stipulated to by both parties, and a list of the depositions similarly stipulated to, and
- ii)** to lodge with judge's chambers copies of the exhibits themselves, unless bulk or other considerations make such submission impractical (in which case please advise court staff of the difficulties).

b) Counsel for plaintiff and for defendant each are ORDERED by the same date noted in section a), above, to file:

- i)** a trial brief,⁶ and
- ii)** a list of that party's *proposed* exhibits, the admissibility of which has been objected to by the opposing party, and the reason (supplied by opposing counsel) for the objection, and
- iii)** proposed findings of fact and proposed conclusions of law if there are any issues to be decided by the court alone.

⁶ A good trial brief will do more than merely restate the case summary contained in the JFPTO, although a theory of the case is usually the core. It may, for example, assist the court by outlining counsel's intended position on anticipated evidence or witness problems.

15. ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE:

Counsel are directed to prepare and use electronic presentation technologies at trial to eliminate, or at least substantially minimize, the need for any physical copies of documents in court. The court can make available certain kinds of electronic presentation technology, either in the *Shared Advanced Technology Courtroom*, or through the use of the court's *Nomad* system or one of the court's *Mobile Evidence Presentation Systems*, all of which have computer connectivity and a document camera with projector. Certification by the court in the use of electronic presentation technologies is available, but not yet required for trial practice.

16. DEPOSITION USE AT TRIAL:

Electronically-recorded depositions for use at trial must be carefully edited in order to meet ordinary trial limitations, limited to *direct examination, cross examination on matters raised in direct, and possibly redirect*. See, Fed. R. Evid. 611). Any extended rounds of questions and answers beyond redirect must be redacted unless the court has been persuaded, in advance, that unusual circumstances require such extended questioning. All objections, commentary by counsel and other extraneous material (which, the court urges, include obviously irrelevant or superfluous testimony even if no objection was lodged) must be effectively redacted. It is not sufficient to merely reduce the volume in court. The court will explain to the jury that editing of such depositions is necessary and common practice.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR DEADLINES

**Final Witness List
Discovery Deadline
Dispositive Motion Deadline
Joint Final Pretrial Order and Proposed Findings
Final Pretrial/Settlement Conference
Trailing Docket**

***Counsel are cautioned not to rely upon this summary alone.
Important detailed information is contained in the Scheduling
Order, ignorance of which can imperil claims or defenses.***

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Robert H. Cleland
ROBERT H. CLELAND
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

October 23, 2006

notice to:

(CMO-NJ Rev.04/06)