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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

, Plaintiff(s), v. , Defendant(s).	Case No. MANDATORY SCHEDULING CONFERENCE (MSC) ORDER [Updated 1/6/26] Date: Time: 8:30 a.m. Courtroom: 6C
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**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY BECAUSE IT CONTROLS THIS CASE
AND DIFFERS IN PART FROM THE LOCAL RULES. FAILURE TO
COMPLY MAY RESULT IN SANCTIONS.**

This case has been assigned to Judge Stanley Blumenfeld, Jr. and is set for a scheduling conference pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b) on the above date in Courtroom 6C of the First Street Courthouse, 350 West First Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90012.

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3 **1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

- 4 **a. Self-Represented Parties.** Parties appearing pro se must comply with
5 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules. L.R. 1-3, 83-
6 2.2.3. “Counsel,” as used in this order, includes parties appearing pro se.
- 7 **b. Notice to be Provided by Counsel.** The plaintiff’s counsel or, if the
8 plaintiff is appearing pro se, defense counsel, shall provide this order to
9 all known parties who have not yet appeared or who appear after the date
10 of this order.
- 11 **c. Court’s Website.** This and all other applicable standing orders in this
12 case are available on Judge Blumenfeld’s webpage
13 (<https://apps.cacd.uscourts.gov/Jps/honorable-stanley-blumenfeld-jr>).
14 The Local Rules are available on the Central District of California
15 website (<http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/court-procedures/local-rules>).
- 16 **d. Pleadings.** If the plaintiff has not previously served the operative
17 complaint on all defendants, the plaintiff shall promptly do so and file
18 proof of service within three days thereafter. At the scheduling
19 conference, the Court will set a deadline—usually within approximately
20 60 days—for hearing motions to amend the pleadings or add parties
21 (including Doe defendants).
- 22 **e. Disclosures and Discovery.** The parties are reminded of their
23 obligations to (1) confer on a discovery plan at least 21 days before the
24 scheduling conference and (2) make initial disclosures within 14 days
25 after the parties’ Rule 26(f) conference. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(C) &
26 (f). The Court encourages the parties to begin discovery early and
27 expects written discovery to be served promptly after the parties have
28 conferred as required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f). A protective order,

1 when necessary, shall be agreed upon within one week of the Rule 26(f)
2 conference.

3 **2. MANDATORY SCHEDULING CONFERENCE (MSC)**

- 4 **a. Continuance.** A request to continue the scheduling conference will be
5 granted only for good cause. The parties should plan to file the joint
6 Rule 26(f) report on the original due date even if a continuance of the
7 MSC is granted. The Court will not continue the MSC to allow the
8 parties to explore settlement.
- 9 **b. Participation.** Lead counsel must attend the scheduling conference,
10 unless excused by the Court for good cause shown in a declaration
11 attached to the report. The Court often explores factual and legal issues
12 at the MSC, and counsel should be prepared to address all aspects of the
13 case.
- 14 **c. Remote Appearances.** Remote appearances are not permitted except for
15 good cause shown *in a declaration attached to the report*. Instructions
16 for remote appearance can be found on Judge Blumenfeld's webpage.
17 Counsel appearing remotely are responsible for ensuring that their
18 equipment and the internet connection in the location from which they
19 will be participating are reliable and adequate for uninterrupted video
20 participation.

21 **3. JOINT RULE 26(F) REPORT**

- 22 **a. Due Date.** File the joint Rule 26(f) report *no later than 10 days*
23 before the scheduling conference. An order to show cause will issue if
24 the report is not timely filed.
- 25 **b. Jointly Filed.** The plaintiff shall draft the report, unless the plaintiff is
26 self-represented or the parties agree otherwise. The report shall be jointly
27 signed and filed as a single submission by all parties.
- 28

1 **c. Format and Contents.** The Court requires strict compliance with its
2 requirements for both the format and contents of the report. List the
3 following dates under the caption title: the Original Complaint; Removal
4 (if removed); Responsive Pleading(s); and Trial (Proposed). Set forth the
5 following information using numbered section headings and lettered sub-
6 headings that correspond precisely to those below:

7 **(1) Subject-Matter Jurisdiction.** State the basis of federal
8 jurisdiction. For federal-question jurisdiction, cite the federal law
9 under which the claim arises. For diversity jurisdiction, state each
10 party's citizenship (including the citizenship of each member of a
11 limited liability company and each partner of a partnership) and the
12 amount in controversy. State whether the parties agree that federal
13 jurisdiction exists and identify the basis for any disagreements.

14 **(2) Statement of the Case.** A short synopsis of the facts, the main
15 claims, counterclaims, affirmative defenses, and procedural history
16 (including any related case). The factual synopsis must provide
17 sufficient detail for the Court to understand the relevant disputes;
18 conclusory summaries are insufficient.

19 **(3) Damages/Insurance.**

20 a. *Damages.* The realistic range of provable damages.

21 b. *Insurance.* Whether there is insurance coverage, the extent of
22 coverage, and whether there is a reservation of rights.

23 **(4) Parties, Evidence, etc.** A list of parties, percipient witnesses, and
24 key documents on the main issues in the case. For conflict
25 purposes, corporate parties must identify all subsidiaries, parents,
26 and affiliates.

1 **(5) Discovery.**

2 a. *Status of Discovery.* A discussion of the present state of
3 discovery, including a summary of completed discovery.

4 b. *Discovery Plan.* A detailed discovery plan, as contemplated
5 by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f). A general statement to the effect that
6 discovery will be conducted on all claims and defenses will
7 result in the case being deemed of low-level complexity.

8 **(6) Legal Issues.** A brief description of all key legal issues, including
9 any significant procedural, substantive, or evidentiary issues.

10 **(7) Motions.**

11 a. *Procedural Motions.* A statement of the likelihood of motions
12 to add other parties or claims, file amended pleadings, transfer
13 venue, etc.

14 b. *Dispositive Motions.* A description of the issues or claims
15 that any party believes may be determined by motion to
16 dismiss or motion for summary judgment.

17 c. *Class-Certification Motion.* For a putative class action, the
18 Court shall set a deadline for hearing the class-certification
19 motion. The parties must act diligently and begin discovery
20 immediately, because the motion must be filed no later than
21 120 days from the date *originally* set for the scheduling
22 conference, unless the Court orders otherwise. Any request
23 for additional time beyond the 120 days must be supported by
24 a detailed “Class-Certification Plan”—attached as an exhibit
25 at the end of the report—showing all anticipated activity and
26 the corresponding date for each activity, up to the hearing on
27 the motion. *The failure to provide the Class-Certification*
28 *Plan will result in the denial of additional time.*

1 **(8) Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).**

- 2 a. *Prior Discussions.* A description of any prior oral or written
3 settlement discussions (without stating the terms).
4 b. *ADR Selection.* The parties shall state their preference for
5 mediation before: the magistrate judge (ADR-1), the court
6 mediation panel (ADR-2), or a private mediator (at the
7 parties' expense) (ADR-3). Failure to state a preference shall
8 be construed as authorizing the Court to select ADR-3.
9 Participation in ADR by all parties, including an officer with
10 full settlement authority for corporate parties, is mandatory.

11 **(9) Trial.**

- 12 a. *Proposed Trial Date.* The trial date is set within a prescribed
13 period from the *original* due date of the initial responsive
14 pleading.
- 15 • The period depends on the level of factual and legal
16 complexity:
17 Low Level: 4–6 Months (e.g., ADA, lemon law, and
18 personal injury cases);
19 Medium Level: 7–12 Months (e.g., civil rights, contract,
20 trademark, copyright, and employment cases); and
21 High Level: 12–18 Months (e.g., complex antitrust, RICO,
22 or securities class actions).
 - 23 • The parties must justify the proposed trial date, even if it is
24 a joint request, as the strength of the justification rather
25 than the fact of agreement, case type, or a lawyer's trial
26 schedule will dictate the trial setting. The strength of the
27 justification will be determined based on the detailed
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1 information provided in completing the sections above
2 along with the explanation in Section 9.

- 3 • A case will be deemed to be of low-level complexity
4 absent detailed justification for the proposed trial date.

5 b. *Time Estimate.* A realistic estimate of the number of court
6 days required for trial, specifying the number of witnesses
7 each party contemplates calling. If the time estimate exceeds
8 four days, counsel should justify in sufficient detail the basis
9 for the estimate.

10 c. *Jury or Court Trial.* Specify whether trial will be by jury or
11 by court. The default will be a court trial if the parties fail to
12 specify.

13 d. *Magistrate Judge.* Whether the parties consent to having a
14 magistrate judge preside for all purposes, including trial. The
15 parties may choose any magistrate judge on the Voluntary
16 Consent List found on the [Central District website](#). If the
17 parties consent, they should contact the courtroom deputy of
18 the selected magistrate judge to confirm his or her availability
19 and, upon confirmation, promptly file a “Notice of Lodging of
20 Consent” along with Form CV-11D (*Statement of Consent to*
21 *Proceed Before a United States Magistrate Judge*, found at
22 <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/court-procedures/forms>)
23 attached thereto. If the parties file the consent form at least
24 three days before the MSC, the Court typically will refer the
25 case to the magistrate judge and vacate the MSC.

26 e. *Trial Counsel.* The names of the attorneys who will try the
27 case and their respective roles.
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1 **(10) Special Requests/Other Issues.**

2 If there are no special requests or other issues (such as those noted
3 below), answer “None” for Section 10 of the Report.

4 a. *Independent Expert or Master.* Whether the Court should
5 consider appointing a master (Fed. R. Civ. P. 53) or an
6 independent expert (if the case involves substantial discovery
7 disputes, complex scientific issues for the bench, etc.).

8 b. *Manual for Complex Litigation Procedures.* Whether these
9 procedures should be used in whole or part.

10 c. *Other Issues.* A statement of any other issues affecting case
11 management—e.g., unusually complex technical issues,
12 discovery in foreign jurisdictions, protective-order disputes,
13 accommodation needs (interpreters, ADA requests, etc.), and
14 any proposed ordering of proof (severance, bifurcation, etc.).

15 **d. ERISA Cases Involving Benefit Claims.** The parties need not file a
16 joint Rule 26(f) report. Instead, they shall file a joint report that sets
17 forth: (1) the facts and legal issues in the case; (2) the status of
18 settlement discussions and the selected form of alternative dispute
19 resolution (ADR-1, ADR-2, or ADR-3); and (3) any special issues that
20 should be considered. The parties should proceed with the preparation of
21 the administrative record and briefing without delay upon service of the
22 complaint. A court trial, ordinarily limited to oral argument on the
23 administrative record, will be scheduled *within six months* from the filing
24 of the original complaint, unless good cause for additional time is shown
25 in the status report. If the Court concludes that the decision would not
26 benefit from oral argument, the matter may be submitted for decision on
27 the papers.
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1 **CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER (CMO)**

2 **a. Continuances.** The CMO deadlines will *not* be continued absent a
3 *timely* showing of *good cause* presented in a Word document along with
4 a proposed order delivered to Judge Blumenfeld’s chambers email
5 (SB_Chambers@caed.uscourts.gov). The Court applies the same
6 standard of good cause to all extension requests—whether opposed,
7 unopposed, or jointly requested.

8 **(1) Good cause.** Good cause requires a specific, detailed, and non-
9 conclusory showing of diligence from the outset of the case,
10 describing: (1) all relevant work previously done (including when
11 each item was completed), (2) all relevant work that remains to be
12 done, (3) why the remaining work could not previously have been
13 done (including efforts made to complete each remaining item),
14 and (4) why the amount of time requested is needed to complete
15 the remaining work. This information *must* be provided in the
16 table form contained in the attachment to the CMO.

17 **(2) Diligence.** Diligence generally will not be found when a party
18 delays serving or pursuing written discovery, engages in strategic
19 staging of discovery or other tasks, or opts for in-person depositions
20 that prevent completion within the existing deadline. The parties
21 should plan to complete discovery far enough in advance of the
22 discovery deadline to allow for both the filing of a discovery
23 motion if necessary and the completion of any court-ordered
24 discovery. Moreover, a desire to engage in settlement discussions
25 generally does not constitute good cause to extend discovery
26 deadlines. The parties are strongly encouraged to agree to
27 exchange initial disclosures promptly and to actively commence
28 discovery before the MSC.

1 **c. Juvenile Records.** If the parties intend to seek juvenile court records
2 related to this case, they shall take steps *immediately* to obtain them –
3 including filing any petition or application in the relevant court. The
4 failure to take immediate action will be considered a lack of diligence
5 and likely will result in the denial of a request to extend a deadline based
6 on the need for juvenile records. To the extent that the parties seek
7 additional time for discovery because of the asserted need for juvenile
8 records, they shall provide a table in the joint Rule 26(f) report
9 identifying each allegation in the complaint that requires discovery of
10 juvenile records, and *for each such allegation* they shall (a) identify the
11 relevant juvenile records, (b) describe the relevance of the juvenile
12 records to the allegation (and to the related claim or defense), and
13 (c) state and explain whether (and the extent to which) the parties can
14 obtain discovery about the allegation by means other than a review of the
15 juvenile records. Absent a sufficient showing of need, the parties should
16 not expect additional time to complete discovery because of a purported
17 need for juvenile records. An incomplete table, or conclusory assertions
18 of need, shall be deemed insufficient. The parties act at their peril if they
19 elect to delay taking discovery until they receive juvenile records when
20 they reasonably could be expected to do otherwise.

21 **d. Protective Orders.** If the parties believe that the production of certain
22 evidence in this case requires a protective order, they shall promptly take
23 steps to agree on appropriate terms or, if necessary, seek relief from the
24 magistrate judge. The parties should not expect the Court to find that
25 they have been diligent or to allow additional time to complete discovery
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1 if they delay obtaining a protective order and then wait to seek or
2 produce discovery until the protective order is in place.

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5 Date: January 14, 2026

6 Stanley Blumenfeld, Jr.
7 United States District Judge
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