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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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Don Addington; John Bostic; Mark)
Burman; Afshin Iranpour; Roger Velez;)
9 Steve Wargoeki,

No. CV 08-1633-PHX-NVW
(consolidated)

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Plaintiffs,

ORDER

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vs.

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US Airline Pilots Association; US)
Airways, Inc.,

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Defendants.

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Don Addington; John Bostic; Mark)
Burman; Afshin Iranpour; Roger Velez;)
16 Steve Wargoeki, et al.,

CV08-1728-PHX-NVW

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Plaintiffs,

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vs.

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Steven Bradford; Paul Diorio; Robert)
20 Frear; Mark King; Douglas Mowery; John)
Stephan, et al.,

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Defendants.

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On February 20, 2009, the Court instructed both parties to file brief statements
25 describing any dispositive or partially dispositive pretrial motions that they would seek leave
26 to file. (Doc. ## 207, 211.) Both parties submitted their statements. (Doc. ## 215, 218.)
27 Plaintiffs orally withdrew their request shortly thereafter (doc. # 227, at 23.), leaving only
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1 Defendant USAPA's request (doc. # 215). This request will be denied without prejudice as
2 to the presentation of any issues at trial.

3 The issues USAPA proposes to brief are not amenable to disposition at the summary
4 judgment stage. First, USAPA claims that the case is not ripe, notwithstanding the Court's
5 prior ruling to the contrary (doc. # 84). The case was held to be ripe because USAPA's
6 delay in negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement allegedly caused "injury to the
7 West Pilots in the form of ongoing furloughs and other detriments" that they would not have
8 endured under the Nicolau Award. According to USAPA, Plaintiffs have now admitted that
9 USAPA is actively pursuing negotiations toward a new collective bargaining agreement,
10 albeit one which would still undermine the Nicolau Award. The extent to which USAPA has
11 delayed negotiations or caused past, present, or future injury to Plaintiffs is deeply embedded
12 with the liability-related fact issues proceeding to trial in April. Though ripeness may present
13 a need for further analysis later on, a motion for summary judgment on this point is not in
14 order.

15 The second issue USAPA proposes relates to the relative advantages and
16 disadvantages of USAPA's seniority proposal as it reflects on the discharge of USAPA's
17 duty of fair representation. This topic runs to the heart of Plaintiffs' claims: Is it permissible
18 for USAPA to cast aside the Nicolau Award? Contrary to USAPA's contention, this
19 question does not appear to be resolvable as a matter of law by looking at the purported
20 ability of the East Pilot majority, prior to the formation of USAPA, to hold other negotiations
21 hostage until the Nicolau Award was undone. The Nicolau Award may have created such
22 a "logjam" prior to the formation of USAPA, but it is still likely possible to infer that
23 USAPA did not break any such logjam in the interest of all US Airways pilots. This question
24 and others like it will require evidence. Summary judgment is not a likely vehicle for their
25 resolution.

26 Practical concerns undergird the Court's overall conclusion. Trial on the liability facts
27 of this case will begin on April 28, 2009. The timely briefing and disposition of any motion
28 for summary judgment would present great a practical difficulty for all concerned. At the


1 same time, as this Court has already instructed, USAPA is welcome to file a Motion to
2 Dismiss under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(c) respecting Plaintiffs' claim for monetary damages
3 relating to union dues and fees.

4 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant USAPA's Request for Leave to File
5 Summary Judgment Motions (doc. # 215) is denied.

6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to File Dispositive
7 Motion (doc. # 218) is denied as moot.

8 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants may file a Rule 12(c) motion
9 concerning the availability of union fees recovery or suspension by March 20, 2009. A
10 Response may be filed by April 3, 2009, and a reply by April 10, 2009.

11 DATED this 13th day of March, 2009.

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Neil V. Wake
United States District Judge

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