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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GEORGE CLINTON,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

WILL ADAMS, et al.,

Defendant(s).

) Case No. CV 10-9476 ODW(PLAx)

) SCHEDULING MEETING OF
) COUNSEL
) [FRCP 16, 26(f)]

) SCHEDULING CONFERENCE
) set for April 25, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.
) [FRCP 26(f)]

_____)
This case has been assigned to the calendar of United States District Judge
Otis D. Wright II. The responsibility for the progress of litigation in the federal
courts falls not only upon the attorneys in the action, but upon the court as well.

In order “to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every
action,” (Fed. R. Civ. P. 1), all counsel are hereby ordered to familiarize
themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the
Central District of California.

Counsel please note the changes made to former Local Rule 6, now
superseded by Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 and 26(f), effective December 1, 2000. A

1 Scheduling Conference is set for the date and time set forth in the caption.¹
2 Counsel shall meet at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the Scheduling
3 Conference to prepare a jointly signed report for the court to be submitted no less
4 than fourteen (14) days before the Scheduling Conference. The report is to contain
5 the items set forth below. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(c), the parties shall be
6 represented by counsel with authority to enter into stipulations regarding all
7 matters pertaining to conduct of the case.

8 The joint report to be submitted shall contain the items listed in Fed. R. Civ.
9 P. 26(f), the parties' recommendations and agreements, if any, about the final
10 scheduling order as listed in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(1) through (6), and those items
11 listed in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(c) which counsel believe will be useful to discuss at the
12 Scheduling Conference. Items which must be listed are the following:

- 13 (1) a listing and proposed schedule of written
14 discovery, depositions, and a proposed
discovery cut-off date;
- 15 (2) a listing and proposed schedule of law and
16 motion matters, and a proposed dispositive
motion cut-off date;
- 17 (3) a statement of what efforts have been made
18 to settle or resolve the case to date and what
19 settlement procedure is recommended
pursuant to Local Rule 16-15.4 (specifically
20 excluding any statement of the terms
discussed);
- 21 (4) an estimated length of trial and a proposed
22 date for the Final Pretrial Conference and
for Trial;
- 23 (5) a discussion of other parties likely to be

24 ¹ Unless there is a likelihood that upon motion by a party the Court would order that any
25 or all discovery is premature, it is advisable for counsel to begin to conduct discovery actively
26 before the Scheduling Conference required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b). At the very least, the
27 parties shall comply fully with the letter and spirit of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a) and thereby obtain
and produce most of what would be produced in the early stage of discovery, because at the
Scheduling Conference the Court will impose tight deadlines to complete discovery.

1 added;

- 2 (6) whether trial will be by jury or to the court;
- 3 (7) any other issues affecting the status or
4 management of the case; and
- 5 (8) proposals regarding severance, bifurcation or other
6 ordering of proof.

7 In addition, the Scheduling Conference Report shall contain the following:

- 8 (1) a short synopsis of the principal issues in the
9 case;
- 10 (2) a statement of whether pleadings are likely
11 to be amended;
- 12 (3) a statement as to issues which any party
13 believes may be determined by motion.²

14 At the Scheduling Conference, the court will set a date for discovery cut-
15 off,³ a final date by which dispositive motions must be set for hearing, a Final
16 Pretrial Conference date, and a trial date.

17 A continuance of the Scheduling Conference will be granted only for good
18 cause. (Counsel are informed that continuance of the Scheduling Conference
19 causes commensurate delay in the trial date.) **The failure to submit a joint report**

20 ² Where the Plaintiff's claim is predicated in whole or in part on denial of benefits under
21 a plan regulated by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. § 1000 *et*
22 *seq.* (ERISA), the parties shall address the following additional issues in their Joint Report:
23 (1) Standard of Review: What standard of review is applicable? If the parties are in
24 disagreement, they shall propose a schedule for early briefing and decision of this issue on
25 Motion; and (2) Pre-emption: Is there any contention that any state-law claim asserted by
26 Plaintiff is pre-empted by ERISA? If so, the parties shall propose a schedule for early briefing
27 and decision of the issue on Motion.

28 ³ This is not the date by which discovery requests must be served; but the date by which
all discovery is to be completed. Any motion challenging the adequacy of discovery responses
must be filed timely, served and calendared sufficiently in advance of the discovery cutoff date
to permit the responses to be obtained before that date, if the motion is granted. The Court
requires compliance with Local Rule 37-1 and 37-2 in the preparation and filing of discovery
motions. Except in the case of an extreme emergency which was not created by the lawyer
bringing the motion, discovery motions may not be heard on an ex parte basis.

1 **in advance of the Scheduling Conference or the failure to attend the**
2 **Scheduling Conference may result in the dismissal of the action, striking the**
3 **answer and entering a default, and/or the imposition of sanctions.**

4 A settlement procedure appropriate to the particular case will be used in
5 every civil action pursuant to Local Rule 16-15.1. In the Scheduling Conference
6 Report, counsel are to recommend a specific settlement procedure provided for in
7 Local Rule 16-15 which will be utilized in this case. Available alternatives for
8 consideration, not to the exclusion of others, include:

- 9 (1) a settlement conference before the
10 magistrate or district judge assigned to this
11 case (Local Rule 16-15.4(1));
- 12 (2) appearance before an attorney selected from
13 the Attorney Settlement Officer Panel (Local
14 Rule 16-15.4(2));
- 15 (3) appearance before a retired judicial officer
16 or other private or non-profit dispute
17 resolution body for non-judicial settlement
18 or mediation proceedings (Local Rule 16-
19 15.4(3));
- 20 (4) such other settlement mechanism proposed
21 by the parties and approved by the court.

22 The report to the court as to the above items should be preceded by a
23 thorough and frank discussion among the attorneys for the parties. A Joint
24 Scheduling Report which does not comply with FRCP 16, 26(f) and this Order may
25 cause continuance of the Scheduling Conference and possible award of sanctions
26 under FRCP 16(f) against the party or parties responsible. **A conformed courtesy**
27 **copy** of the Joint Report shall be delivered to the courtesy box on the wall outside
28 the entrance to chambers on the Spring Street level of the U.S. Courthouse, 312
North Spring Street, **by 3:00 p.m. the following business day.**

Motions shall be filed in accordance with Local Rule 7; the next available
motion date can be found on the Court's motion calendar, which can be viewed on

1 the Court's website.⁴ This Court hears motions on **Mondays, commencing at**
2 **1:30 p.m. No supplemental brief shall be filed without prior leave of Court.**
3 Conformed courtesy copies of **opposition and reply papers** shall be delivered to
4 the courtesy box on the wall outside the entrance to chambers on the Spring Street
5 level of the U.S. Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, **by 4:00 p.m. on the date**
6 **due.** Adherence to the timing requirements is mandatory for chambers' preparation
7 of motion matters.

8 Counsel should take note of the changes to the Local Rules affecting motion
9 practice in the Central District. Among other things, Local Rule 7-3 requires
10 counsel to engage in a pre-filing conference "to discuss thoroughly . . . the
11 substance of the contemplated motion and any potential resolution." Counsel
12 should discuss the issues sufficiently that if a motion is still necessary, the briefing
13 may be directed to those substantive issues requiring resolution by the Court.
14 Counsel should resolve minor procedural or other nonsubstantive matters during
15 the conference.

16 **Memoranda of Points and Authorities in support of or in opposition to**
17 **motions shall not exceed 25 pages. Replies shall not exceed 12 pages.** Only in
18 rare instances and for good cause shown will the Court grant an application to
19 extend these page limitations. **Typeface shall comply with Local Rule 11-3.1.1.**
20 **NOTE: Times New Roman font must be used and the size must be no less than**
21 **14.** Footnotes shall be in typeface no less than two sizes smaller than text size and
22 shall be used sparingly. Filings which do not conform to the Local Rules and this
23 Order will not be considered.

24 Each party filing or opposing a motion or seeking the determination of any
25 matter shall serve and lodge a Proposed Order setting forth the relief or action

26
27 ⁴ All law and motion matters, except for motions in limine, must be set for hearing (not
28 filing) by the motion cutoff date.

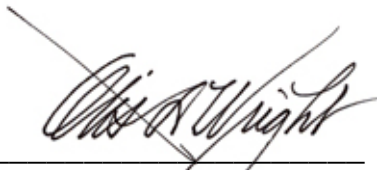
1 sought and a brief statement of the rationale for the decision with appropriate
2 citations.

3 Counsel are reminded ex parte applications are solely for extraordinary
4 relief. *See Mission Power Engineering Co. v. Continental Casualty Co.*, 883 F.
5 Supp. 488 (C.D. Cal. 1995).

6 Counsel for plaintiff shall immediately serve this Order on all parties,
7 including any new parties to the action.

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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10 DATED: March 7, 2011

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15 Otis D. Wright II
16 United States District Judge
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