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**United States District Court
Central District of California**

Bertha V. Leon et al.,
Plaintiff,
v.
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc et al.,
Defendants.

Case CV 17-04559-ODW(SK)

**SCHEDULING AND CASE
MANAGEMENT ORDER**

(JURY TRIAL)

**FOR CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE
OTIS D. WRIGHT, II**

This Order is to advise the parties and counsel of the schedule that will govern this case. **THE SCHEDULING CONFERENCE IS VACATED. SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THIS ORDER FOR THE SPECIFIED DATES.** Ordinarily, the dates set forth on the last page are determined after consultation with the parties at the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b) Scheduling Conference. The dates and requirements are firm. The Court is unlikely to grant continuances, even if stipulated by the parties, unless the parties establish good cause through a concrete showing.

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1 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

2 1. To secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every
3 action, all counsel are ordered to familiarize themselves with and follow the Federal
4 Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Central District of California.
5 This Court follows these rules and they will govern this litigation unless otherwise
6 provided in this Order.

7 2. Because this Order in some respects modifies or adds to the Local Rules,
8 counsel are advised to read it carefully. Counsel are advised to pay particular
9 attention to the requirements of the Court with respect to the filing of motions for
10 summary judgment and documents to be submitted at the Final Pretrial Conference
11 and Trial.

12 3. The attorney attending any proceeding before this court must be an
13 attorney who is thoroughly knowledgeable about the case, responsible for the conduct
14 of the litigation, and who has authority to enter into stipulations and to make
15 admissions regarding all matters that the participants reasonably anticipate may be
16 discussed. Lead counsel who will actually try the case must attend the Pretrial
17 Conference. A party who is not represented must attend all proceedings in person.

18 4. **Courtesy Copies:** Courtesy copies of all electronically filed documents
19 are to be delivered to the courtesy box on the 4th Floor of the U.S. Courthouse, 350 W.
20 1st Street by the following business day.

21 **Courtesy copies DO NOT need to be blue-backed. All courtesy copies of**
22 **pretrial documents (e.g. witness lists, exhibit lists, pretrial conference orders,**
23 **jury instructions, etc.) shall be three-hole punched.**

24 5. **Discovery Cut-Off:** Percipient and expert discovery shall be completed
25 by the discovery cut-off dates specified on the last page of this Order. **THIS IS NOT**
26 **THE DATE BY WHICH DISCOVERY REQUESTS MUST BE SERVED; IT IS**
27 **THE DATE BY WHICH ALL DISCOVERY IS TO BE COMPLETED.**

28 Any motion challenging the adequacy of responses to discovery must be heard

1 sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date to permit the responses to be
2 obtained before that date if the motion is granted. In an effort to provide further
3 guidance to the parties, the Court notes the following:

4 a. **Depositions**: All depositions shall be scheduled to commence
5 sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date to permit their completion and to
6 permit the deposing party enough time to bring any discovery motions concerning the
7 deposition prior to the cut-off date.

8 b. **Written Discovery**: All interrogatories, requests for production of
9 documents, and requests for admissions shall be served sufficiently in advance of the
10 discovery cut-off date to permit the discovering party enough time to challenge (via
11 motion practice) responses deemed to be deficient.

12 c. **Discovery Motions**: Whenever possible, the Court expects the
13 parties to resolve discovery issues among themselves in a courteous, reasonable, and
14 professional manner. The Magistrate Judge assigned to this case will rule on
15 discovery motions. (The Magistrate Judge's initials follow the district judge's initials
16 next to the case number on the first page of this Order.) Counsel are directed to
17 contact the Magistrate Judge's courtroom deputy clerk (CRD) to schedule a hearing
18 on any discovery related matters. Counsel should not deliver courtesy copies of these
19 discovery documents to this Court.

20 d. **Expert Discovery**: If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, the
21 parties shall designate affirmative experts to be called at trial and provide reports
22 required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B) not later than eight weeks
23 prior to the expert discovery cut-off date. Rebuttal expert witnesses shall be
24 designated and reports provided as required by Rule 26(a)(2)(B) not later than five
25 weeks prior to the expert discovery cut-off date. Failure to timely comply with
26 deadlines may result in the expert being excluded as a trial witness.

27 6. **Motions and Motion Cut-Off Date**

28 a. **General Provisions**: All law and motion matters, except for

1 motions in limine, must be set for hearing (not filed) by the motion cut-off date
2 specified on the last page of this Order. This Court hears motions in civil matters on
3 **Mondays at 1:30 p.m.** The parties must adhere to the requirements of the Local
4 Rules. *See* Local Rules 7-1 *et seq.* If any party does not oppose a motion, that party
5 shall submit a written statement that it does not oppose the motion in accordance with
6 Local Rule 7-9. The parties should note that failure to meet the time limits for filing
7 an opposition set forth in Local Rule 7-9 shall be deemed consent to the granting of
8 the motion. *See* Local Rule 7-12.

9 The title page of all motions must state the Pre-Trial Conference date and the
10 Trial date. Counsel must comply with Local Rule 7-3, which requires counsel to
11 engage in a pre-filing conference “to discuss thoroughly . . . the substance of the
12 contemplated motion and any potential resolution.”

13 Issues left undetermined after the passage of the motion cut-off date should be
14 listed as issues for trial in the Final Pre-Trial Conference Order. As an exception to
15 the above, motions in limine dealing with evidentiary matters may be heard pursuant
16 to the schedule specified on the last page of this Order.

17 b. **Meeting and Confering:** The Parties are required to meet and
18 confer with opposing counsel prior to the filing of a motion or ex parte application
19 under Local Rule 7-3. The Court notes that is the responsibility of both parties to
20 meet and confer in good faith on any disputed issues. The Court will impose
21 sanctions, including monetary sanctions and/or the summary denial of a motion, if
22 *either* party fails to meet and confer in good faith or fails to reasonably narrow the
23 issues in dispute.

24 c. **Ex Parte Applications:** Ex parte practice is discouraged. *See*
25 *Mission Power Eng’g v Co. v. Continental Cas. Co.*, 883 F. Supp. 488 (C.D. Cal.
26 1995). The Court will require strict adherence to proper ex parte procedures for any
27 ex parte application filed with the Court. *Id.* at 492; *see also* Judge Wright’s Standing
28 Order and Local Rule 7-19. **Any opposition to an ex parte application must be**

1 **filed within 24 hours.** Failure to submit a timely opposition constitutes consent to the
2 granting of the application. *See* Local Rule 7-12. No party may file a reply unless
3 expressly authorized by the Court. All ex parte applications will be decided on the
4 papers and without a hearing unless the Court orders otherwise.

5 d. **Applications and Stipulations to Extend Time:** Applications to
6 extend the time to file any required document or to continue any hearing, Pre-Trial
7 Conference, or Trial date must set forth the following:

- 8 (i) The existing due date or hearing date, as well as the discovery cut-
9 off date, the Pre-Trial Conference date, and the Trial date;
- 10 (ii) Specific, concrete reasons supporting good cause for granting the
11 extension; and
- 12 (iii) Whether there have been prior requests for extensions, and whether
13 these requests were granted or denied by the Court.

14 The parties are cautioned that the Court will not necessarily grant an extension
15 or continuance simply because all parties have stipulated to it.

16 e. **Joinder of Parties and Amendment of Pleadings:** The deadline
17 for joining parties and amending pleadings is set forth on the last page of this Order.
18 Any motions to join other parties or for leave to amend the pleadings shall be set for
19 hearing on before this date. If any party moves to amend a pleading after this date,
20 they must address the propriety of amendment under *Johnson v. Mammoth*
21 *Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604 (9th Cir. 1992).

22 In addition to the requirements of Local Rule 15-1, all motions to amend the
23 pleadings shall: (1) state the effect of the amendment; (2) be serially numbered to
24 differentiate the amendment from previous amendments; and (3) state the page, line
25 number(s), and wording of any proposed change or addition of material. The parties
26 shall deliver to Chambers a redlined version of the proposed amended pleading
27 indicating all additions and deletions of material.

28 f. **Summary Judgment Motions:** Parties need not wait until the

1 motion cutoff to bring motions for summary judgment or partial summary judgment.
2 Early completion of non-expert discovery and filing of motions for summary
3 judgment may eliminate or reduce the need for expensive expert depositions that are
4 normally conducted in the last stages of discovery. **However, the Court requires**
5 **that the party moving for summary judgment will provide no less than thirty-five**
6 **(35) days' notice for such motions.** Because summary judgment motions are fact-
7 dependent, parties should prepare papers in a fashion that will assist the Court in
8 absorbing the mass of facts (e.g., generous use of tabs, tables of contents, headings,
9 indices, etc.). The parties are to comply precisely with Local Rule 56-1 through 56-4.
10 The Court will also require adherence to the following requirements:

11 (i) Statement of Uncontroverted Facts and Statement of Genuine
12 Issues of Material Fact

13 The movant's Separate Statement of Uncontroverted Facts is to be prepared in a
14 two column format. The left-hand column should set forth the allegedly undisputed
15 fact. The right-hand column should set forth the evidence that supports the factual
16 statement. The factual statements should be set forth in sequentially numbered
17 paragraphs. Each paragraph should contain a narrowly focused statement of fact.
18 Each numbered paragraph should address a single subject in as concise a manner as
19 possible.

20 The opposing party's Statement of Genuine Issues of Material Fact must be in
21 two columns and track the movant's Separate Statement exactly as prepared. The
22 document must be in two columns; the left-hand column must restate the allegedly
23 undisputed fact, and the right-hand column must indicate either undisputed or
24 disputed. The opposing party may dispute all or only a portion of the statement, but if
25 disputing only a portion, must clearly indicate what part is being disputed. Where the
26 opposing party is disputing the fact in whole or part, the opposing party must, in the
27 right-hand column, label and restate the moving party's evidence in support of the
28 fact, followed by the opposing party's evidence controverting the fact. Where the

1 opposing party is disputing the fact on the basis of an evidentiary objection, the party
2 must cite the evidence alleged to be objectionable and state the ground of the
3 objection and nothing more. **No argument should be set forth in this document.**

4 The opposing party may submit additional material facts that bear on or relate
5 to the issues raised by the movant, which shall follow the format described above for
6 the moving party's Separate Statement. These additional facts shall follow the
7 movant's facts, shall continue in sequentially numbered paragraphs (i.e. if movant's
8 last statement of fact was set forth in paragraph 30, then the first new fact will be set
9 forth in paragraph 31), and shall set forth in the right-hand column the evidence that
10 supports that statement.

11 The moving party, in its reply, shall respond to the additional facts in the same
12 manner and format that the opposing party is required to adhere to in responding to
13 the Statement of Uncontroverted Facts, as described above.

14 **The following conduct in connection with a motion for summary judgment**
15 **shall be grounds for sanctions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11: (1)**
16 **disputing a material fact without any reasonable basis for doing so; (2)**
17 **identifying additional facts in opposition to the motion without any reasonable**
18 **basis for believing that the additional facts will materially affect the outcome of**
19 **the motion.**

20 (ii) Supporting Evidence

21 No party should submit any evidence other than the specific items of evidence
22 or testimony necessary to support or controvert a proposed statement of undisputed
23 fact. Thus, for example, the entire transcripts of depositions and/or entire sets of
24 interrogatory responses should generally not be submitted in support of or in
25 opposition to a motion for summary judgment.

26 Evidence submitted in support of or in opposition to a motion for summary
27 judgment should be submitted either by way of stipulation or as exhibits to a
28 declaration sufficient to authenticate the proffered evidence, and should not be

1 attached to the memorandum of points and authorities. The Court will accept
2 counsel's authentication of deposition transcripts, written discovery responses, and the
3 receipt of documents in discovery if the fact that the document was in the opponent's
4 possession is of independent significance. Documentary evidence as to which there is
5 no stipulation regarding foundation must be accompanied by the testimony, either by
6 declaration or properly authenticated deposition transcript, of a witness who can
7 establish its authenticity.

8 All evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion for summary judgment,
9 including declarations and exhibits to declarations, shall be separated by a tab divider
10 on the bottom of the page. If evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion for
11 summary judgment exceeds twenty pages, the evidence must be in a separately bound
12 volume and include a Table of Contents. If the supporting evidence exceeds fifty
13 pages, the documents shall be placed in a Slant D-Ring binder with each item of
14 evidence separated by a tab divider on the right side. All documents contained in the
15 binder should be three-hole-punched.

16 (iii) Objections to Evidence

17 If a party disputes a fact based in whole or in part on an evidentiary objection,
18 the ground for the objection, as indicated above, should be stated in the Separate
19 Statement, but not argued in that document. Evidentiary objections should be
20 addressed in a separate memorandum to be filed with the opposition or reply brief of
21 the party. This memorandum should be organized **to track the paragraph numbers**
22 **of the Separate Statement in sequence**. It should identify the specific item of
23 evidence to which objection is made, the ground for the objection, and a very brief
24 argument with citation to authority as to why the objection is well taken. The
25 following is an example of the format contemplated by the Court:

26 Separate Statement Paragraph 1: Objection to the supporting deposition
27 transcript of Jane Smith at 60:1-10 on the grounds that the statement constitutes
28 inadmissible hearsay and no exception is applicable. To the extent it is offered to

1 prove her state of mind, it is irrelevant since her state of mind is not in issue. Fed. R.
2 Evid. 801, 802.

3 **DO NOT SUBMIT BLANKET OR BOILERPLATE OBJECTIONS TO**
4 **THE OPPONENT’S STATEMENTS OF UNDISPUTED FACT. THESE WILL**
5 **BE DISREGARDED AND OVERRULED.**

6 (iv) Memorandum of Points and Authorities

7 The movant’s memorandum of points and authorities should be in the usual
8 form required under Local Rule 7 and should contain a narrative statement of facts as
9 to those aspects of the case that are before the Court. All facts should be supported
10 with citations to the paragraph number in the Separate Statement that supports the
11 factual assertion.

12 Unless the case involves some unusual twist, the motion need only contain a
13 brief statement of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 standard; the Court is
14 familiar with the Rule and with its interpretation under *Celotex* and its progeny. If at
15 all possible, the argument should be organized to focus on the pertinent elements of
16 the claim(s) for relief or defense(s) in issue, with the purpose of showing the existence
17 or non-existence of a genuine issue of material fact for trial on that element of the
18 claim or defense.

19 Likewise, the opposition memorandum of points and authorities should be in
20 the usual form required by Local Rule 7. Where the opposition memorandum sets
21 forth facts, the memorandum should cite to paragraphs in the Separate Statement if
22 they are not in dispute, to the evidence that contravenes the fact where the fact is in
23 dispute, or, if the fact is contravened by an additional fact in the Statement of Genuine
24 Issues of Material Fact, the citation should be to such fact by paragraph number.

25 g. **Avoid Composite Motions:** Unless clearly justified under the
26 circumstances of the case, “motions to dismiss or in the alternative for summary
27 adjudication” are discouraged. These composite motions tend to blur the distinctions
28 between the two motions.

1 h. **Motions in Limine:** Before filing any motion in limine, counsel
2 for the parties shall confer pursuant to Local Rule 7-3 in a good faith effort to
3 eliminate the necessity for hearing the motion in limine or to eliminate as many of the
4 disputes as possible. It shall be the responsibility of counsel for the moving party to
5 arrange for this conference. The motion papers must include a declaration showing a
6 good faith meet and confer effort. The conference shall take place **in person** within
7 10 calendar days of service upon opposing counsel of a letter requesting such a
8 conference, but in no event later than twenty-one days before the Pre-Trial
9 Conference. The conference may take place by telephone only if both counsel are not
10 located in the same county in the Central District.

11 If counsel are unable to resolve their differences, they shall prepare a separate,
12 sequentially-numbered Motion in Limine for each issue in dispute which contains a
13 clear caption that identifies the moving party and the nature of the dispute (i.e.,
14 “Plaintiff’s Motion in Limine #1 to exclude the testimony of Defendant’s expert”).
15 **Neither party may file more than five (5) Motions in Limine absent leave of**
16 **Court upon a showing of good cause, and leave of Court will be granted**
17 **sparingly.** Each Motion in Limine shall contain a clear identification of the
18 testimony, exhibits, or other specific matters alleged to be inadmissible and/or
19 prejudicial and a statement of the specific prejudice that will be suffered by the
20 moving party if the motion is not granted. The identification of the matters in dispute
21 shall be followed by the moving party’s contentions and memorandum of points and
22 authorities. The title page of the Motion in Limine must state the Pre-Trial
23 Conference date, hearing date for the motions in limine, and the trial date.

24 Motions in Limine made for the purpose of precluding the mention or display of
25 inadmissible and/or prejudicial matter in the presence of the jury shall be accompanied
26 by a declaration that includes the following: (1) a clear identification of the specific
27 matter alleged to be inadmissible and/or prejudicial; (2) a representation to the Court
28 that the subject of the motion in limine has been discussed with opposing counsel, and

1 that opposing counsel has either indicated that such matter will be mentioned or
2 displayed in the presence of the jury before it is admitted in evidence or that counsel
3 has refused to stipulate that such matter will not be mentioned or displayed in the
4 presence of the jury unless and until it is admitted in evidence; and (3) a statement of
5 the specific prejudice that will be suffered by the moving party if the motion in limine
6 is not granted. A motion to bifurcate trial may be filed as a motion in limine.

7 All evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion in limine, including
8 declarations and exhibits to declarations, shall be separated by a tab divider on the
9 bottom of the page. If evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion in limine
10 exceeds twenty pages, the evidence must be in a separately bound volume and include
11 a Table of Contents. Though strongly discouraged, if by necessity the supporting
12 evidence exceeds fifty pages, the documents shall be placed in a Slant D-Ring binder
13 with each item of evidence separated by a tab divider on the right side. All
14 documents contained in the binder should be three-hole-punched.

15 Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, motions in limine will be heard on the
16 date specified on the last page of this Order. The moving party shall file with the
17 Court and serve its Motion in Limine on the responding party on or before the date for
18 filing of motions in limine indicated in the Schedule of Trial and Pre-trial Dates. The
19 responding party shall then file with the Court and serve an opposition to the Motion
20 in Limine on the moving party at least seven (7) days prior to the date for the hearing
21 on motions in limine. **Neither party's submissions with respect to a Motion in
22 Limine shall exceed eight (8) pages. Unless ordered otherwise, the Court will
23 only consider the moving papers and any opposition thereto; no replies are
24 necessary or invited.**

25 i. **Motions for Class Certification:** All motions for class
26 certification must be filed according to Local Rule 23-3. The Court will rarely grant
27 stipulations or applications to extend that deadline. Specifically, the failure to
28 complete class discovery before the deadline does not constitute good cause to extend

1 the deadline, unless the parties show specific and concrete reasons why, despite their
2 diligence, the failure to complete discovery was **unavoidable**. The Court will
3 consider extensions based on the ordering of issues (e.g., if the defendant seeks to file
4 a dispositive motion before class certification) on a case-by-case basis. Any
5 stipulations or applications for relief must include a specific date by which the
6 plaintiff will move for class certification (the Court will not grant an open-ended
7 extension).

8 j. **Oral Argument**: The Court, in its discretion, may dispense with
9 oral argument on a motion. Fed. R. Civ. P. 78(b); C.D. Cal. L.R. 7-15. However, the
10 Court also encourages law firms to contribute to the professional development of new
11 attorneys by allowing them to present oral argument to the Court on motions. To that
12 end, if any party to a motion files a notice with the Court stating that an attorney with
13 **less than four years' experience** will present oral argument, the Court will hold a
14 hearing on that motion. This notice must be filed no later than **fourteen days** before
15 the hearing. The Court will take into account the attorney's inexperience when
16 considering their oral arguments.

17 7. **Final Pre-Trial Conferences and Local Rule 16 Filings**

18 Please read this portion carefully, as there are some differences between the
19 Court's requirements and the Local Rules.

20 a. **General Provisions**

21 The Final Pre-Trial Conference ("PTC") will be held on the date specified on
22 the last page of this Order, unless the Court expressly waived the PTC at the
23 Scheduling Conference. (In the rare cases where the Court waives a PTC, the parties
24 must follow Local Rule 16-10.) If adjustments in the Court's calendar to
25 accommodate congestion become necessary, the Court may re-schedule the PTC
26 instead of the trial date. Therefore, the parties should assume that if the PTC goes
27 forward, the trial will go forward without continuance, although some brief period of
28 trailing may prove necessary.

1 The lead trial attorney on behalf of each party shall attend both the PTC and all
2 meetings of the parties in preparation for the PTC, unless excused for good cause
3 shown in advance of the PTC.

4 A continuance of the PTC at the parties' request or by stipulation is highly
5 unlikely. **Specifically, failure to complete discovery is not a ground for**
6 **continuance**. In the unlikely event that the Court agrees to continue the PTC, the trial
7 date is likely to be delayed as a result. If a change to the trial date is necessitated or
8 likely because of the Court's calendar or otherwise, modifications of that date will be
9 discussed at the PTC.

10 At the PTC, the parties should be prepared to discuss means of streamlining the
11 trial, including, but not limited to the following: bifurcation; presentation of
12 foundational and non-critical testimony and direct testimony by deposition excerpts;
13 narrative summaries and/or stipulations as to the content of testimony; presentation of
14 testimony on direct examination by affidavit or by declaration subject to cross-
15 examination; and qualification of experts by admitted resumes. The Court will also
16 discuss settlement.

17 **b. Courtesy Copies**

18 As with other documents filed with the Court, the parties must submit courtesy
19 copies of all PTC documents. However, the courtesy copies **must** be delivered to
20 chambers as follows:

- 21 (i) **One copy** of all PTC documents (i.e., both plaintiff's documents
22 and defendant's documents) shall be delivered to the Court in **one**
23 3-ring binder;
- 24 (ii) Each document shall be separated by numerical side-tabs, and shall
25 be placed in the following order: (1) Proposed Pretrial Conference
26 Order; (2) Plaintiff's Memorandum and Contentions of Facts and
27 Law; (3) Defendant's Memorandum and Contentions of Facts and
28 Law; (4) Joint Witness List; (5) Joint Exhibit List and Stipulation;

1 (6) Plaintiff’s Proposed Verdict Form; (8) Defendant’s Proposed
2 Verdict Form; (10) Joint Proposed Jury Instructions; (9) Plaintiff’s
3 Disputed Jury Instructions; (10) Defendant’s Disputed Jury
4 Instructions; (11) Joint Statement of the Case; (12) Proposed Voir
5 Dire Questions; (13) Joint Report re: Settlement; and (14) Other
6 pretrial documents; and

7 (iii) The binder shall include a table of contents.

8 c. **Final Pre-Trial Conference Order (“PTCO”)**

9 The proposed PTCO shall be lodged seven calendar days before the PTC,
10 unless the Court specifically orders otherwise. Adherence to this time requirement is
11 necessary for in-chambers preparation of the matter. The form of the proposed PTCO
12 shall comply with Appendix A to the Local Rules and the following:

13 (i) Place in “**ALL CAPS AND BOLD**” the separately numbered
14 headings for each category in the PTCO (e.g., “**1. THE**
15 **PARTIES**” or “**7. CLAIMS AND DEFENSES OF THE**
16 **PARTIES**”).

17 (ii) Include a table of contents at the beginning.

18 (iii) In specifying the surviving pleadings under section 1, state which
19 claims or counter claims have been dismissed or abandoned, e.g.,
20 “Plaintiff’s second cause of action for breach of fiduciary duty has
21 been dismissed.” Also, in multiple party cases where not all
22 claims or counterclaims will be prosecuted against all remaining
23 parties on the opposing side, please specify to which party each
24 claim or counterclaim is directed.

25 (iv) In specifying the parties’ claims and defenses under section 7, each
26 party shall closely follow the examples set forth in Appendix A of
27 the Local Rules.

28 (v) In drafting the PTCO, **the court expects that the parties will**

1 **attempt to agree on and set forth as many non-contested facts**
2 **as possible.** The court will usually read the uncontested facts to
3 the jury at the start of trial. A carefully drafted and
4 comprehensively stated stipulation of facts will reduce the length
5 of trial and increase jury understanding of the case. **It is**
6 **unacceptable for the parties to indicate in the Proposed**
7 **Pretrial Conference Order that they are not able to stipulate to**
8 **any facts whatever.**

- 9 (vi) In drafting the factual issues in dispute for the PTCO, the parties
10 should attempt to state issues in ultimate fact form, not in the form
11 of evidentiary fact issues. The issues of fact should track the
12 elements of a claim or defense on which the jury will be required
13 to make findings.
- 14 (vii) Issues of law should state legal issues on which the court will be
15 required to rule during the trial, and should not list ultimate fact
16 issues to be submitted to the trier of fact.
- 17 (viii) The Court may submit fact issues to the jury in the form of
18 findings on a special verdict. The issues of fact should track the
19 elements of a claim or defense on which the jury will be required
20 to make findings.
- 21 (ix) If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, each party must list and
22 identify its respective expert witnesses, both retained and non-
23 retained. Failure of a party to list and identify an expert witness in
24 the PTCO could result in a court order which precludes the party
25 from calling that expert witness at trial.
- 26 (x) The parties shall submit only ONE proposed PTCO. **It is**
27 **unacceptable to submit multiple or competing proposed**
28 **PTCOs.** *See* Local Rule 16-7.

1 d. **Rule 16 Filings; Memoranda; Witness Lists; Exhibit Lists**

2 Unless otherwise indicated, the parties must comply fully with the requirements
3 of Local Rule 16. See the last page of this Order for applicable dates.

4 Memoranda and Contentions of Fact and Law

5 Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law shall be filed by the date listed in
6 this Scheduling Order, and shall comply with the requirements set forth in Local Rule
7 16-4. The parties are strongly encouraged to submit one joint Memorandum where
8 possible.

9 Joint Witness List

10 Counsel shall prepare a **joint** list of their witnesses, including a brief summary
11 (two to three paragraphs) of each witness's expected testimony, **what makes the**
12 **testimony unique** from any other witness testimony, an estimate of the length of time
13 needed for direct examination of each side's own witnesses and an estimate for the
14 cross examination of opposing witnesses, and whether the witness will testify by
15 deposition or in person. The joint witness list shall be filed at the same time counsel
16 lodge the PTCO. If a party intends to offer deposition testimony into evidence at trial,
17 the party shall designate the relevant portions of the deposition testimony to be read at
18 trial and advise opposing counsel of same. Opposing counsel shall then designate any
19 additional portions of such deposition testimony which counsel intends to offer in
20 evidence. All objections to any such testimony shall be made in writing and filed at
21 the same time counsel lodge the PTCO so that the Court may consider whether ruling
22 on the objections will facilitate trial or result in the disposition of evidentiary matters
23 that may assist continuing settlement negotiations.

24 If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, each party shall list and identify their
25 respective expert witnesses. Failure of a party to list and identify an expert witness
26 may preclude a party from calling that expert witness at trial. If expert witnesses are
27 to be called at trial, the parties shall exchange at the PTC short narrative statements of
28 the qualifications of the expert and the testimony expected to be elicited at trial.

1 Previously prepared and exchanged expert reports shall not substitute for the narrative
2 statements required.

3 **On the first day of trial, the parties must lodge with the Court three (3)**
4 **copies of the witness list**, which shall include the names of the witness in the
5 approximate order in which they may be called to testify.

6 Joint Exhibit List and Exhibit Stipulation

7 The parties shall prepare a joint Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation that shall contain
8 each party's numbered list of all trial exhibits, with objections, if any, to each exhibit
9 including the basis of the objection and the offering party's response. All exhibits to
10 which there is no objection shall be deemed admitted. The parties shall stipulate to
11 the authenticity of exhibits whenever possible, and the Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation
12 shall identify any exhibits for which authenticity has not been stipulated to and the
13 specific reasons for the party's failure to stipulate.

14 The Stipulation shall be substantially in the following form:

15
16 **Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation**

17 **Plaintiff(s)/Defendant(s)' Exhibits**

18 **Number** **Description** **If Objection, State Grounds** **Response to Objection**

19
20 The Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation shall be filed at the same time counsel lodge
21 the proposed PTCO. Failure to comply with this paragraph could be deemed to
22 constitute a waiver of all objections. **Do not submit** blanket or boilerplate objections
23 to the opposing party's exhibits. These will be disregarded and overruled. **NOTE:**
24 Counsel are instructed not to bring excessive exhibits to trial, but only those exhibits
25 that are reasonably expected to actually be used.

26 All counsel are to meet not later than ten (10) days before trial and to stipulate
27 so far as is possible as to authenticity, foundation, waiver of the best evidence rule,
28 and to those exhibits which may be received into evidence at the start of trial. The

1 exhibits to be so received will be noted on the copies of the exhibit lists.

2 **In addition, the parties should submit three copies of the final exhibit list to**
3 **the Court Clerk on the first day of trial.**

4 Jury Instructions/Special Verdict Forms

5 The parties shall make every attempt to agree upon the jury instructions before
6 submitting them to the Court. **It is expected that counsel will agree on the**
7 **substantial majority of jury instructions.** This is in addition to the standard
8 cautionary and introductory instructions regarding duties of the jury, the order of the
9 trial, etc. found in Chapters 1, 2 & 3 of the *9th Circuit Manual of Model Jury*
10 *Instructions*. The court requires little or no assistance in the preparation of these
11 instructions. Counsel's attention should be focused on reaching agreement on the
12 instructions covering the substantive legal issues. It is anticipated that working
13 diligently and cooperatively counsel will be able to reach agreement on the vast
14 majority of the substantive instructions. **Judicial involvement will be limited to**
15 **resolving disputes on only a few instructions on which the parties are unable to**
16 **agree.**

17 On the date listed in this Scheduling Order, counsel shall file with the Court a
18 **JOINT** set of jury instructions on which there is agreement. Defendant's counsel has
19 the burden of preparing the joint set of jury instructions. At the same time, each party
20 shall file its proposed jury instructions which are objected to by any other party,
21 accompanied by points and authorities in support of those instructions.

22 When the parties disagree on an instruction, the party opposing the instruction
23 must attach a short statement (one to two paragraphs) supporting the objection, and
24 the party submitting the instruction must attach a short reply supporting the
25 instruction. Each statement should be on a separate page and should follow directly
26 after the disputed instruction.

27 The parties ultimately must submit one document, or if the parties disagree over
28 any proposed jury instructions, three documents. The three documents shall consist

1 of: (1) a set of Joint Proposed Jury Instructions; (2) Plaintiff’s Disputed Jury
2 Instructions; and (3) Defendant’s Disputed Jury Instructions. Any disputed Jury
3 Instructions shall include the reasons supporting and opposing each disputed
4 instruction in the format set forth in the previous paragraph.

5 **The parties are encouraged to consider whether the Court should give**
6 **preliminary instructions to the jury on the substantive issues they will be called**
7 **upon to decide. Should the parties elect to give preliminary instructions, those**
8 **substantive instructions should be produced to the Court on the first day of trial.**

9 The Court directs counsel to use the instructions from the *Manual of Model*
10 *Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit* where applicable. Where California law is to
11 be applied and the above instructions are not applicable, the Court prefers counsel to
12 use the California Jury Instructions in CACI. If none of these sources is applicable,
13 counsel are directed to use the instructions in Devitt, Blackmar and Wolff, *Federal*
14 *Jury Practice and Instructions*. Modifications of instructions from the foregoing
15 sources (or any other form instructions) must specifically state the modification made
16 to the original form instruction and the authority supporting the modification. **The**
17 **Court will consider special jury instructions not derived from these sources only**
18 **in exceptional circumstances.**

19 Each requested instruction shall be in the format specified by Local Rule 51-2
20 and shall be set forth in full; be on a separate page with the caption "COURT’S
21 INSTRUCTION NUMBER ___"; be numbered; cover only one subject or principle of
22 law; not repeat principles of law contained in any other requested instructions; and
23 cite the authority for a source of the requested instruction. In addition to the
24 foregoing, each party shall file with the Courtroom Deputy Clerk (CRD) on the first
25 day of trial a “clean set” of the aforesaid requested duplicate jury instructions. The
26 “clean set” shall not cite the authority for a source of the requested instruction.

27 An index page shall accompany all jury instructions submitted to the Court.
28 The index page shall indicate the following:

- the number of the instruction;
- a brief title of the instruction;
- the source of the instruction and any relevant case citation; and
- the page number of the instruction.

EXAMPLE:

<u>NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
5	Evidence for Limited Purpose	9th Cir. 1.5	9

During the trial and again before argument, the Court will meet with counsel and settle the instructions. Strict adherence to time requirements is necessary for the Court to examine the submissions in advance so that there will be no delay in starting the jury trial, or the final instructions to the jury and the closing arguments of counsel. **Failure of counsel to strictly follow the provisions of this section may subject the non-complying party and/or its attorney to sanctions and SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL in all civil cases.**

Joint Statement of the Case and Requests for Voir Dire

At the PTC, the parties shall file their proposed voir dire questions and their joint Statement of the Case which the Court will read to all prospective jurors prior to the commencement of voir dire. The statement should not be longer than two or three paragraphs, and contain no argument nor an excessive amount of information. The Statement of the Case is merely to advise the prospective jurors of the general nature of the case, i.e. securities law violations, bank robbery, copyright infringement, etc.

The Court conducts voir dire of all prospective jurors. The parties need not submit requests for standard voir dire questions such as education, current occupations, marital status, prior jury service, etc., but should include only proposed questions specifically tailored to the parties and issues of the case.

Trial Exhibits

1 Counsel must deliver two sets of exhibits to the Court Clerk (one for witnesses
2 and one for the Judge) on the morning of the first day of trial as follows:

3 (i) Judge's Copy: Counsel are to prepare the Judge's copy of the
4 exhibits by placing them in 3-ring binders. The holes are to be
5 3/8" in diameter. The notebooks are to be tabbed down the right
6 side with numeric tabs separating each exhibit.

7 (ii) Witnesses' Copy: Counsel are to prepare the Witnesses' copy of
8 the exhibits by placing each exhibit in its own separate manilla
9 folder. Each manilla folder should have a tab on the right side with
10 the exhibit number written on it. The manilla folders should be put
11 in a box in numerical order, with the tabs facing upward. The
12 exhibits used in this folder should be the original exhibits, and
13 should be tagged with Court-approved tags. Court-approved
14 exhibit tags can be obtained from the window on the 4th Floor of
15 the U.S Courthouse, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

16 The exhibits are to be numbered sequentially, with Plaintiff's exhibits
17 numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. and Defendant's exhibits numbered 1000, 1001, 1002, etc.
18 Exhibit numbering must further comply with Local Rule 26-3.

19 Deposition Transcripts

20 The complete original transcript of any depositions to be used at trial shall be
21 lodged with the Court on the first day of trial.

22 First Day of Trial

23 The Court requires that the following be submitted to the Courtroom Deputy
24 Clerk on the first day of trial (which is **in addition to any other documents**
25 referenced above):

26 (i) Judge's copy of exhibits (as described above).

27 (ii) Witnesses' copy of exhibits (as described above).

28 (iii) Any preliminary instructions the parties have agreed may be read

1 to the jury before the presentation of evidence.

2 (iv) Three (3) copies of the exhibit list.

3 (v) Three (3) copies of the witness list, which shall include the names
4 of the witness in the approximate order in which they may be
5 called to testify.

6 All counsel are to meet not later than ten (10) days before trial and to stipulate
7 so far as possible as to foundation, waiver of the best evidence rule, and to those
8 exhibits which may be received into evidence at the start of trial. The exhibits so
9 received will be noted on the copies of the exhibit lists.

10 **Any items that have not been admitted into evidence and are left in the**
11 **courtroom overnight without prior approval will be discarded.**

12 Real-Time Reporting Requirement

13 Each party must file with the Court, at the same time counsel lodges the PTCO,
14 a document for the Court Reporter that contains proper names, unusual or scientific
15 terms, or any other foreign or uncommon words that are likely to be used by the
16 parties during the PTC and the Trial.

17 **8. Settlement**

18 This Court will not conduct settlement conferences in non-jury cases unless
19 counsel for all parties and their respective clients agree either in writing or on the
20 record. In jury cases, the Court will conduct a settlement conference at the parties'
21 joint request if three conditions exist:

22 (a) The parties are satisfied that the fact issues in the case will be tried
23 by a jury;

24 (b) All significant pre-trial rulings which the Court must make have
25 been made; and

26 (c) The parties desire the Court to conduct the conference,
27 understanding that if settlement fails, the Court will preside over
28 trial of the case.

1 The parties must file a Status Report regarding settlement at the time they lodge
2 the proposed PTCO. This Report shall not disclose the parties' settlement positions,
3 i.e. the terms of any offers or demands. It shall merely describe the efforts made by
4 the parties to resolve the dispute informally, i.e. the occasions and dates when the
5 parties participated in mediation or settlement conferences. The Status Report shall
6 also include the name and phone number of the Settlement Officer who assisted the
7 parties with their settlement conference.

8 **Caveat: If counsel fail to file the required Pre-Trial documents or fail to**
9 **appear at the Pre-Trial Conference and such failure is not otherwise**
10 **satisfactorily explained to the Court: (a) the cause shall stand dismissed for**
11 **failure to prosecute if such failure occurs on the part of the plaintiff; (b) default**
12 **judgment shall be entered if such failure occurs on the part of the defendant; or**
13 **(c) the Court may take such action as it deems appropriate.**

14
15 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

16
17
18 

19 September 6, 2017

20 _____
21 **OTIS D. WRIGHT, II**
22 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

U.S. District Judge Otis D. Wright, II
Schedule of Trial and Pretrial Dates

CASE NO.: CV 17-4559

PARTIES: Bertha V. Leon et al.
-v-
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. et al.

COMPLAINT FILED: 11/30/16

Estimated Length of Trial: 7 days

TRIAL TYPE: Jury

SETTLEMENT CHOICE:
Magistrate Judge
Attorney Settlement Panel
Outside ADR
Judicial Settlement Panel

DATE	MATTER
06/26/18	Trial at 9:00 a.m.
06/21/18	<u>Deadline to File:</u> Final Trial Exhibit Stipulation
06/18/18	Hearing on Motions in Limine at 1:30 p.m.
06/11/18	<u>Deadline to File:</u> Oppositions to Motions in Limine
06/04/18	Final Pretrial Conference at 1:30 p.m. <u>Deadline to File:</u> Motions in Limine
05/28/18	<u>Deadline to File:</u> Proposed Pretrial Conference Order Memoranda and Contentions of Fact and Law Joint Witness List Joint Exhibit List and Exhibit Stipulation Proposed Verdict Form(s) Proposed Jury Instructions / Disputed Jury Instructions Proposed Voir Dire Questions Joint Statement of the Case Joint Status Report re: Settlement
05/07/18	Deadline for Hearing Motions*
04/30/18	Deadline to Conduct Settlement Conference
03/26/18	Expert Discovery Cutoff
03/12/18	Percipient/Fact Discovery Cutoff
12/11/17	Deadline to Hear Motion to Amend Pleadings or Add Parties (must comply with FRCP 15(a)(2))

* This does not apply to motions for class certification, which must be filed in accordance with Local Rule 23-3 unless expressly waived by Court order.