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Dennis Lee Townsend et al v. Menu Foods Limited et al

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 MAY 11 2007
 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 BY [Signature] DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DENNIS LEE TOWNSEND, et al.,
 Plaintiff[s],
 vs.
 MENU FOODS LIMITED, et al.,
 Defendant[s].

No. ED CV 07-398-GHK(AJWx)
ORDER RE: CASE MANAGEMENT
 (REVISED AS OF APRIL, 2007)
READ IMMEDIATELY

This case has been assigned to the calendar of Judge George H. King. The court fully adheres to Rule 1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which requires that the Rules be "construed to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of every action."

Counsel shall also be guided by the following special requirements, some of which are more specific than those set out in the Local Rules:

1. SERVICE: Plaintiff shall promptly serve the Complaint in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and file proofs of service pursuant to Local Rule 5.3.1.

2. ATTENDANCE AT PROCEEDINGS: The attorney attending any proceeding before this court must be the attorney who is primarily

1 responsible for the conduct of the case.

2 3. **COURTESY COPIES:** A courtesy copy of all papers filed with the
3 court shall be delivered to chambers at Room 660, Roybal Federal
4 Building, on the day of filing. Papers filed without a courtesy copy
5 delivered to chambers **WILL BE REJECTED AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

6 4. **FILING OF MOTIONS:**

7 (a) Motions shall be filed and set for hearing in accordance
8 with Local Rules 6-1 through 7-20. Motions shall be set on Mondays at
9 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise ordered by the court. If a Monday is a
10 court holiday, no motions shall be set on the succeeding Tuesday. Any
11 motions noticed for a holiday shall automatically be continued to the
12 next motion calendar date.

13 (b) Counsel should take note that Local Rule 11-6 limits all
14 memoranda of points and authorities to "25 pages in length, excluding
15 indices and exhibits, unless permitted by order of the judge." The
16 court is of the view that the 25-page limitation is more than adequate
17 for counsel to set forth his/her points and authorities, especially if
18 counsel carefully reviews and edits the memorandum to ensure a concise
19 and focused presentation. Accordingly, routine requests to exceed the
20 page limitation will be denied. Leave to exceed the page limitation
21 will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances where counsel
22 makes an adequate showing of specific facts in support of an
23 application to exceed the page limitation.

24 (c) Generally, the court will rule on motions on the papers
25 submitted, and without oral argument. Accordingly, counsel are
26 advised to place all authorities and arguments in their moving or
27 opposing papers. Counsel are reminded that a reply shall be limited
28 to argument and/or authorities responsive to the opposition papers.

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1 Any improper introduction of new matter in the reply will be ignored
2 by the court.

3 5. MOTIONS TO DISMISS:

4 (a) Unless clearly justified under the circumstances of the
5 case, "motions to dismiss or in the alternative for summary
6 adjudication" are discouraged. These composite motions tend to blur
7 the legitimate distinction[s] between the two motions, which have
8 different purposes. Frequently, the composite motions introduce
9 evidence that is extrinsic to the pleadings. On the one hand, such
10 evidence is improper for consideration on a Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6)
11 motion, while on the other hand, treatment of the motion as a Rule 56
12 motion frequently results in reasonable invocation of Rule 56(f) by
13 the non-moving party.

14 (b) Moreover, Rule 12(b)(6) motions are discouraged unless
15 counsel has a good faith belief that such motion will likely result in
16 dismissal, without leave to amend, of all or at least some of the
17 claims under applicable law.

18 6. DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS: No party shall file a motion pursuant
19 to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 until a dispositive motion deadline has been
20 set. Moreover, no party may file more than one motion pursuant to
21 Fed. R. Civ. P. 56, regardless of whether such motion is denominated
22 as a motion for summary judgment or summary adjudication, without
23 leave from the court.

24 7. LOCAL RULE 7-3: Among other things, counsel should be aware
25 that Local Rule 7-3 requires that counsel engage in a pre-filing
26 conference "to discuss thoroughly, preferably in person, the substance
27 of the contemplated motion and any potential resolution." The court
28 takes this rule seriously, and counsel shall discharge their

1 obligations under Local Rule 7-3 in good faith. Even if a motion is
2 still necessary after a good faith pre-filing conference, counsel
3 should have sufficiently discussed the issues so that the briefing
4 will be directed to those substantive issues which require resolution
5 by the court. Minor procedural or other non-substantive matters
6 should be resolved by counsel during the course of the conference.

7 (a) Notwithstanding Local Rule 16-12(c), the parties in
8 cases in which the plaintiff is appearing *pro se* are **required** to meet
9 and confer in compliance with Local Rule 7-3 unless the *pro se*
10 plaintiff is incarcerated.

11 (b) Notwithstanding the exception for preliminary
12 injunction motions in Local Rule 7-3, counsel contemplating a
13 preliminary injunction motion are **required** to meet and confer, in
14 substantive compliance with Local Rule 7-3, at least five days prior
15 to the filing of such a motion.

16 8. **DISCOVERY: ALL DISCOVERY MATTERS ARE REFERRED TO A UNITED**
17 **STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE** (see initials in parentheses following the
18 case number). Discovery disputes of a significant nature should be
19 brought promptly before the Magistrate Judge. The court does not look
20 favorably upon delay resulting from unnecessarily unresolved discovery
21 disputes. Counsel are directed to contact the clerk for the assigned
22 Magistrate Judge to schedule matters for hearing. The words
23 "DISCOVERY MATTER" shall appear in the caption of all documents
24 relating to discovery to ensure proper routing.

25 The decision of the Magistrate Judge shall be final and binding,
26 subject to modification by the District Judge only where it has been
27 shown that the Magistrate Judge's order is clearly erroneous, contrary
28 to law, or an abuse of discretion.

1 9. EX PARTE APPLICATIONS: *Ex parte* Applications are considered
2 on the papers and are not normally set for hearing. Counsel are
3 advised to file and serve their *ex parte* applications as soon as they
4 realize that extraordinary relief is necessary. This court entertains
5 *ex parte* applications only in extraordinary circumstances; sanctions
6 may be imposed for misuse of the *ex parte* process. See *In re*
7 *Intermagnetics Am., Inc.*, 101 B.R. 191 (C.D. Cal. 1989). The
8 requesting party shall serve the motion by personal delivery or fax,
9 at or before the time the application is filed, and notify the
10 responding party that opposing papers must be filed within 24 hours of
11 such service. Moreover, at the time of the application, the applicant
12 shall comply with Local Rule 7-19.1 which *inter alia*, requires the
13 applicant to advise the court in writing of the efforts to contact
14 opposing counsel and of that counsel's intention to oppose the
15 application. The moving party's memorandum and declaration in support
16 of an *ex parte* application shall affirmatively show compliance with
17 Local Rules 7-19 through 7-19.2 and this Order, failing which the
18 application shall be denied. See *Mission Power Eng'g Co. V. Cont'l*
19 *Cas. Co.*, 883 F. Supp. 488, 492 (C.D. Cal. 1995).

20 10. TRIAL PREPARATION: This court strives to set trial dates as
21 early as possible and does not approve of unnecessarily protracted
22 discovery.

23 11. CONTINUANCES: Continuances are granted only upon a showing
24 of good cause. Counsel requesting a continuance **MUST** submit a
25 **DETAILED** declaration setting forth the reason therefor. Any
26 continuances requested but not accompanied by said declaration will be
27 rejected. The court sets **FIRM** trial dates and will not change them
28 without a showing of good cause. "**FIRM** trial dates" are defined as

1 dates on which counsel must be ready to proceed; however, the court
2 may trail the action on 48 hours call when necessary (e.g. in the
3 event that a criminal case, an older civil case, or a case otherwise
4 entitled to precedence by law, proceeds to trial on said date, or the
5 court is otherwise occupied with other matters).

6 12. STIPULATIONS: **NO** stipulations extending scheduling dates
7 set by this court are effective unless approved by the court. All
8 stipulations must be accompanied by a **DETAILED** declaration explaining
9 the reason for the stipulation. Any stipulation not in compliance
10 with this Order or the Local Rules of the Central District will be
11 rejected. Stipulations shall be submitted well in advance of the
12 relief requested. Counsel wishing to know whether or not a
13 stipulation has been approved shall comply with Local Rule 11-4.5

14 13. NOTICE OF REMOVAL: All documents filed in state court,
15 including answers and documents appended to a complaint, **MUST** be
16 refiled in this court as a supplement or exhibit to the Notice of
17 Removal. If an answer has not as yet been filed, said answer or
18 responsive pleading shall be filed in accordance with the Federal
19 Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules. See, e.g., Fed. R. Civ.
20 P. 81(c). Any pending motions must be re-noticed in accordance with
21 the Local Rules and this Order.

22 14. BANKRUPTCY APPEALS: Counsel shall comply with the Order re:
23 Procedure to Be Followed in Appeal from Bankruptcy Court issued at the
24 time the appeal is filed in the District Court. The matter is
25 considered submitted upon the filing of the appellant's reply brief.
26 No oral argument is held unless otherwise ordered by this court.

27 15. TRANSFERS: All documents filed in the transferor court **MUST**
28 be re-filed with this court, within twenty (20) days of transfer, by

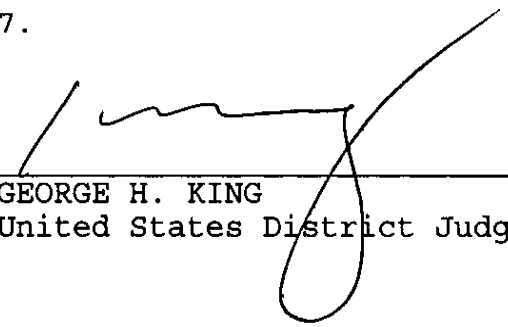
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1 the party who/that sought transfer. Such filing **SHALL** be submitted as
2 a "Notice of Filing," with a compilation of all documents,
3 individually tabbed, attached as an appendix. The notice shall bear a
4 title page containing the information required by Local Rule 11-3.8
5 and shall otherwise conform with Local Rule 11-3.5 and all other
6 relevant Local Rules. The notice shall also contain a table of
7 contents.

8 16. NOTICE: Counsel for plaintiff, or plaintiff if appearing
9 *pro se* in an action commenced in this court, and counsel for defendant
10 or defendant *pro se* in a removed action, shall serve a copy of this
11 Order on all other parties or their counsel at the earliest possible
12 time. Counsel, or any party required to give notice of this Order,
13 shall file proof of service of such notice within 48 hours of the
14 service of such notice.

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16 DATED: This 10 day of May, 2007.



GEORGE H. KING
United States District Judge