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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANDREW LOPEZ,

Plaintiff,

v.

FLOREZ, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:08-cv-01975-LJO-JLT (PC)

**NOTICE TO PARTIES REGARDING  
IMPACTED TRIAL CALENDAR AND  
AVAILABILITY OF CONSENT TO U.S.  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE JURISDICTION**

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This matter is currently set before U.S. District Judge Lawrence J. O’Neill, and the parties have declined to consent to U.S. Magistrate Judge jurisdiction. The parties are hereby notified of the following regarding Judge O’Neill’s impacted trial calendar and its potential effect on their future trial date.

Judges in the Eastern District of California carry the heaviest caseload in the nation, and this Court is unable to devote inordinate time and resources to individual cases and matters. Judge O’Neill must adhere to strict scheduling to best manage his burdensome caseload approaching 2,000 cases.

Civil trials set before Judge O’Neill trail until he becomes available and are subject to suspension mid-trial to accommodate criminal matters. Civil trials are no longer reset to a later date if Judge O’Neill is unavailable on the original date set for trial. If a trial trails, it may proceed with little advance notice, and the parties and counsel may be expected to proceed to trial with less

1 than 24 hours notice. Moreover, this Court's Fresno Division randomly and without advance  
2 notice reassigns civil actions to U.S. District Judges throughout the nation to serve as visiting  
3 judges. In the absence of Magistrate Judge consent, this action is subject to reassignment to a U.S.  
4 District Judge from outside the Eastern District of California.

5 Case management difficulties, including trial setting and interruption, are avoided if the  
6 parties consent to conduct of further proceedings by a U.S. Magistrate Judge. This Court  
7 recognizes that both parties elected to decline the Magistrate Judge's jurisdiction. However, given  
8 the gravity of Judge O'Neill's inability to commit to trials, the parties are encouraged to reconsider  
9 Magistrate Judge consent.

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IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 26, 2013

/s/ Lawrence J. O'Neill  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE