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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL E. LEWIS,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

DOT TRANSPORTATION, INC.,

Defendant(s).

**Case No. 1:16-CV-01918 DAD-EPG**

**ORDER SETTING MANDATORY  
SCHEDULING CONFERENCE**

**DATE: September 6, 2017**

**TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

**COURTROOM: 10 (6th Floor)**

**ERICA P. GROSJEAN  
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

The Court sets a formal Scheduling Conference before United States Magistrate Judge Erica P. Grosjean, in Courtroom 10 at the United States Courthouse, 2500 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721, to be held on September 6, 2017, at 9:30 AM.

**Appearance at Scheduling Conference**

Attendance at the Scheduling Conference is *mandatory* for all parties. Parties may appear by their counsel, if represented. If a party is not represented by counsel, they must appear personally at the Scheduling Conference. **Telephonic appearances are not available for pro se parties, i.e., those not represented by counsel.** Trial counsel should participate in this Scheduling Conference whenever possible. If one or more parties are represented by counsel and wish to

1 appear telephonically, counsel shall email Michelle Means Rooney, Courtroom Deputy Clerk, at  
2 mrooney@caed.uscourts.gov, sufficiently in advance of the conference so that a notation can be  
3 placed on the court calendar. To appear telephonically, each party shall dial 1 (888) 251 – 2909  
4 and enter access code 1024453. Additionally, counsel are directed to indicate on the face page of  
5 their Joint Scheduling Report that the conference will be telephonic.

6 **Joint Scheduling Report**

7 A Joint Scheduling Report, carefully prepared and executed by all counsel, shall be  
8 electronically filed in CM/ECF, one (1) full week prior to the Scheduling Conference and shall be  
9 emailed in Word format to [epgorders@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:epgorders@caed.uscourts.gov). The Joint Scheduling Report shall  
10 indicate the date, time, and courtroom of the Scheduling Conference. This information is to be  
11 placed opposite the caption on the first page of the Report.

12 At least twenty (20) days prior to the Mandatory Scheduling Conference, trial counsel for  
13 all parties shall conduct a conference at a mutually agreed upon time and place. This should  
14 preferably be a personal conference between all counsel but a telephonic conference call  
15 involving all counsel/pro se parties is permissible. The Joint Scheduling Report shall contain the  
16 following items by corresponding numbered paragraphs:

17 1. Summary of the factual and legal contentions set forth in the pleadings of each  
18 party, including the relief sought by any party presently before the Court.

19 2. Summary of major disputed facts and contentions of law.

20 3. A proposed deadline for amendments to pleadings. Any proposed amendment to  
21 the pleadings shall be referenced in the Scheduling Conference Report. If the matter cannot be  
22 resolved at the Scheduling Conference, the moving party shall file a motion to amend in  
23 accordance with the Local Rules of the Eastern District of California.

24 4. The status of all matters which are presently set before the Court, e.g., hearings of  
25 motions, etc.

26 5. A complete and detailed discovery plan addressing the following issues and  
27 proposed dates:

28 a A date for the exchange of initial disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P.

- 1 26(a)(1) or a statement that disclosures have already been exchanged;
- 2 b. A firm cut-off date for non-expert discovery. When setting this date, the
- 3 parties should consider that discovery cutoffs requires that motions to
- 4 compel be filed and heard sufficiently in advance of the deadline so that the
- 5 Court may grant effective relief within the allotted discovery time;
- 6 c. A firm date for disclosure of expert witnesses, required by Fed. R. Civ. P.
- 7 26(a)(2), including a date for disclosure of rebuttal experts;
- 8 d. A firm cut-off date for all expert witness discovery;
- 9 e. Any proposed changes in the limits on discovery imposed by
- 10 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b); 30(a)(2)(A), (B); 30(d); or 33(a);
- 11 f. Whether the parties anticipate the need for a protective order relating to the
- 12 discovery of information relating to a trade secret or other confidential
- 13 research, development, or commercial information;
- 14 g. Any issues or proposals relating to the timing, sequencing, phasing or
- 15 scheduling of discovery; and
- 16 h. Whether the parties anticipate the need to take discovery outside the United
- 17 States and, if so, a description of the proposed discovery.

18 **Additional Disclosures Related to Electronic Discovery**

19 1. Discovery Relating to Electronic, Digital and/or Magnetic Data. Prior to a

20 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) conference, counsel should carefully investigate their respective

21 client's information management system so that they are knowledgeable as to its

22 operation, including how information is stored and how it can be retrieved. Counsel shall

23 also conduct a reasonable review of their respective client's computer files to ascertain the

24 contents thereof, including archival and legacy data (outdated formats or media), and

25 disclose in initial discovery (self-executing routine discovery) the computer-based

26 evidence which may be used to support claims or defenses.

27 2. The parties shall meet and confer regarding the following matters during

28 the Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) conference, and address the status of Electronic Discovery and

1 any disagreements in their Statement, including:

2 a. Preservation: The parties shall attempt to agree on steps the  
3 parties will take to segregate and preserve computer-based  
4 information in order to avoid accusations of spoliation.

5 b. Scope of E-mail Discovery: The parties shall attempt to  
6 agree as to the scope of e-mail discovery and attempt to agree upon  
7 an e-mail search protocol. The parties should seek to agree on  
8 search terms, custodians, and date ranges in advance of the  
9 Conference so that any disputes can be addressed at the Conference.

10 c. Inadvertent Production of Privileged Information: The  
11 parties should confer regarding procedures for inadvertent  
12 production of privileged electronic material, including any  
13 obligations to notify the other party, and procedures for bringing  
14 any disputes promptly to the Court.

15 d. Data Restoration: The parties shall confer regarding whether  
16 or not restoration of deleted information may be necessary, the  
17 extent to which restoration of deleted information is needed, and  
18 who will bear the costs of restoration; and the parties shall attempt  
19 to agree whether or not back-up data may be necessary, the extent  
20 to which backup data is needed and who will bear the cost of  
21 obtaining back-up data.

22 6. Dates agreed to by all counsel for:

23 a. Filing dispositive pre-trial motions (except motions *in limine* or other trial  
24 motions). The dispositive motion filing deadline shall be at least twelve  
25 (12) weeks prior to the proposed Pre-Trial Conference date, and the  
26 hearing on dispositive motions shall be at least sixty (60) days before the  
27 proposed Pre-trial Conference date.

28 b. A Pre-Trial Conference Date.

1 c. A Trial date. This date should be at least sixty (60) days after the proposed  
2 Pre-Trial Conference date.

3 7. The parties are encouraged to discuss settlement, and must include a statement in  
4 the Joint Scheduling Report as to the possibility of settlement. The parties shall indicate when  
5 they desire a settlement conference, e.g., before further discovery, after discovery, after pre-trial  
6 motions, etc. Among other things, counsel will be expected to discuss the possibility of settlement  
7 at the Scheduling Conference. Note that, even if settlement negotiations are progressing, counsel  
8 are expected to comply with the requirements of this Order unless otherwise excused by the  
9 Court. If the entire case is settled, counsel shall **promptly** inform the Court. In the event of  
10 settlement, counsel's presence at the conference, as well as the Joint Scheduling Report, will not  
11 be required.

12 8. A statement as to whether the case is a jury or non-jury case. The parties shall  
13 briefly outline their respective positions if there is a disagreement as to whether a jury trial has  
14 been timely demanded, or as to whether a jury trial is available on some or all of the claims.

15 9. An estimate of the number of trial days is required. If the parties cannot agree,  
16 each party shall give his or her best estimate.

17 10. The parties' position regarding consent to proceed before a United States  
18 magistrate judge. Note that the parties need not make a final decision on the issue of consent  
19 until after the Scheduling Conference, but should state their current position in this Statement and  
20 expect to make a final decision soon after the Scheduling Conference.

21 The parties may wish to consider that, when a civil trial is set before the district judges in  
22 the Fresno Division, any criminal trial that conflicts with the civil trial will take priority, even if  
23 the civil trial was set first. Continuances of civil trials under these circumstances may no longer  
24 be entertained, absent good cause, but the civil trial may instead trail from day to day or week to  
25 week until the completion of either the criminal case or the older civil case.

26 Parties are free to withhold consent or decline magistrate jurisdiction without adverse  
27 substantive consequences.

28 11. Whether either party requests bifurcation or phasing of trial or has any other

1 suggestion for shortening or expediting discovery, pre-trial motions or trial.

2 12. Whether this matter is related to any matter pending in this court or any other  
3 court, including bankruptcy court.

4 **Scheduling Order**

5 Following the Scheduling Conference, the Court will issue a Scheduling Order with the  
6 benefit of the input of the parties. Once issued, the dates in the Scheduling Order shall be firm  
7 and no extension shall be given without permission from the Court.

8 **Lack of Participation in the Joint Scheduling Report**

9 If any party fails to participate in the preparation of the Joint Scheduling Report, the non-  
10 offending party shall detail the party's effort to get the offending party to participate in the Joint  
11 Scheduling Report. The non-offending party shall still file the report one (1) full week prior to  
12 the Mandatory Scheduling Conference and shall list the non-offending party's position on the  
13 listed issues and proposed dates for a schedule. Absent good cause, the dates proposed by the  
14 non-offending party will be presumed to be the dates offered by the parties. The offending party  
15 may be subject to sanctions, including monetary sanctions to compensate the non-offending  
16 party's time and effort incurred in seeking compliance with this Scheduling Order.

17 **Important Chambers' Information**

18 The parties are directed to the Court's website at [www.caed.uscourts.gov](http://www.caed.uscourts.gov) under **Judges;**  
19 **Grosjean (EPG); Standard Information (in the area entitled "Case Management**  
20 **Procedures")** for specific information regarding Chambers' procedures. Information about law  
21 and motion, scheduling conferences, telephonic appearances, and discovery disputes is provided  
22 at this link.

23 **Sanctions for Failure to Comply**

24 Should counsel or a party appearing pro se fail to appear at the Mandatory Scheduling  
25 Conference, or fail to comply with the directions as set forth above, an ex parte hearing may be  
26 held and contempt sanctions, including monetary sanctions, dismissal, default, or other  
27 appropriate judgment, may be imposed and/or ordered.

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IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: JUNE 20, 2017

/s/ ERICA P. GROSJEAN

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE