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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ELAINE NORTH,
Plaintiff,

No. 2:08-cv-02126-MCE-EFB

v.

PRETRIAL (STATUS) SCHEDULING ORDER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
et al.,
Defendants.

_____ /

After reviewing the parties' Joint Status Report, the Court makes the following Order.

I. SERVICE OF PROCESS

All named Defendants have been served and no further service is permitted without leave of court, good cause having been shown.

II. ADDITIONAL PARTIES/AMENDMENTS/PLEADINGS

No joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is permitted without leave of court, good cause having been shown.

In response to the parties request to drop the "Doe" Defendants, counsel must file a dismissal with the Court.

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1 III. JURISDICTION/VENUE

2 Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. sections 1331 and
3 1346. Jurisdiction and venue are not contested.

4 IV. DISCOVERY

5 All discovery, with the exception of expert discovery, shall
6 be completed by **October 23, 2009**. In this context, "completed"
7 means that all discovery shall have been conducted so that all
8 depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to
9 discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if
10 necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has
11 been obeyed. All motions to compel discovery must be noticed on
12 the magistrate judge's calendar in accordance with the local
13 rules of this Court.

14 V. DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES

15 All counsel are to designate in writing, file with the
16 Court, and serve upon all other parties the name, address, and
17 area of expertise of each expert that they propose to tender at
18 trial not later than **December 23, 2009**.¹ The designation shall
19 be accompanied by a written report prepared and signed by the
20 witness. The report shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P.
21 26(a)(2)(B).

22 Within twenty (20) days after the designation of expert
23 witnesses, any party may designate a supplemental list of expert
24 witnesses who will express an opinion on a subject covered by an
25 expert designated by an adverse party.

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27 ¹ The discovery of experts will include whether any motions
28 based on Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 509 U.S.
579 (1993) and/or Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael, 119 S. Ct. 1167
(1999) are anticipated.

1 The right to designate a supplemental expert for rebuttal
2 purposes only shall apply to a party who has not previously
3 disclosed an expert witness on the date set for expert witness
4 disclosure by this Scheduling Order.

5 Failure of a party to comply with the disclosure schedule as
6 set forth above in all likelihood will preclude that party from
7 calling the expert witness at the time of trial. An expert
8 witness not appearing on the designation will not be permitted to
9 testify unless the party offering the witness demonstrates:

10 (a) that the necessity for the witness could not have been
11 reasonably anticipated at the time the list was proffered;

12 (b) that the Court and opposing counsel were promptly notified
13 upon discovery of the witness; and (c) that the witness was
14 promptly made available for deposition.

15 For purposes of this scheduling order, an "expert" is any
16 person who may be used at trial to present evidence under
17 Rules 702, 703, and 705 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, which
18 include both "percipient experts" (persons who, because of their
19 expertise, have rendered expert opinions in the normal course of
20 their work duties or observations pertinent to the issues in the
21 case) and "retained experts" (persons specifically designated by
22 a party to be a testifying expert for the purposes of
23 litigation).

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1 Each party shall identify whether a disclosed expert is
2 percipient, retained, or both. It will be assumed that a party
3 designating a retained expert has acquired the express permission
4 of the witness to be so listed. Parties designating percipient
5 experts must state in the designation who is responsible for
6 arranging the deposition of such persons.

7 All experts designated are to be fully prepared at the time
8 of designation to render an informed opinion, and give their
9 bases for their opinion, so that they will be able to give full
10 and complete testimony at any deposition taken by the opposing
11 party. Experts will not be permitted to testify at the trial as
12 to any information gathered or evaluated, or opinion formed,
13 after deposition taken subsequent to designation.

14 Counsel are instructed to complete all discovery of expert
15 witnesses in a timely manner in order to comply with the Court's
16 deadline for filing dispositive motions.

17 VI. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

18 All dispositive motions, except motions for continuances,
19 temporary restraining orders or other emergency applications,
20 shall be heard no later than **February 23, 2010**. The parties are
21 responsible for ensuring that all motions are filed to allow for
22 proper notice of the hearing under the Federal Rules of Civil
23 Procedure and/or Local Rules. Available hearing dates may be
24 obtained by calling Stephanie Deutsch, Deputy Courtroom Clerk,
25 (916) 930-4207.

26 All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely
27 pretrial motions. Local Rule 78-230 governs the calendaring and
28 procedures of civil motions with the following additions:

1 (a) The opposition and reply must be filed by
2 **4:00 p.m.** on the day due; and

3 (b) When the last day for filing an opposition brief
4 falls on a legal holiday, the opposition brief
5 shall be filed on the last court day immediately
6 preceding the legal holiday.

7 Failure to comply with Local Rule 78-230(c), as modified by
8 this Order, may be deemed consent to the motion and the Court may
9 dispose of the motion summarily. Further, failure to timely
10 oppose a summary judgment motion² may result in the granting of
11 that motion if the movant shifts the burden to the nonmovant to
12 demonstrate that a genuine issue of material fact remains for
13 trial.

14 The Court places a page limit of twenty (20) pages on all
15 initial moving papers, twenty (20) pages on oppositions, and ten
16 (10) pages for replies. All requests for page limit increases
17 must be made in writing to the Court setting forth any and all
18 reasons for any increase in page limit at least fourteen (14)
19 days prior to the filing of the motion.

20 For the Court's convenience, citations to Supreme Court
21 cases should include parallel citations to the Supreme Court
22 Reporter.

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27 ² The Court urges any party that contemplates bringing a
28 motion for summary judgment or who must oppose a motion for
summary judgment to review Local Rule 56-260.

1 The parties are reminded that a motion in limine is a
2 pretrial procedural device designed to address the admissibility
3 of evidence. The Court will look with disfavor upon
4 dispositional motions (except those noted on page 3) presented at
5 the Final Pretrial Conference or at trial in the guise of motions
6 in limine.

7 The parties are cautioned that failure to raise a
8 dispositive legal issue that could have been tendered to the
9 court by proper pretrial motion prior to the dispositive motion
10 cut-off date may constitute waiver of such issue.

11 VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

12 The Final Pretrial Conference is set for **July 9, 2010** at
13 **9:00 a.m.** At least one of the attorneys who will conduct the
14 trial for each of the parties shall attend the Final Pretrial
15 Conference. If by reason of illness or other unavoidable
16 circumstance a trial attorney is unable to attend, the attorney
17 who attends in place of the trial attorney shall have equal
18 familiarity with the case and equal authorization to make
19 commitments on behalf of the client.

20 Counsel for all parties are to be fully prepared for trial
21 at the time of the Final Pretrial Conference, with no matters
22 remaining to be accomplished except production of witnesses for
23 oral testimony.

24 The parties shall file, not later than **June 18, 2010**, a
25 Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement. The provisions of
26 Local Rules 16-281 shall apply with respect to the matters to be
27 included in the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement.

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1 In addition to those subjects listed in Local Rule 16-281(b), the
2 parties are to provide the Court with a plain, concise statement
3 that identifies every non-discovery motion tendered to the Court
4 and its resolution. Failure to comply with Local Rule 16-281, as
5 modified by this Order, may be grounds for sanctions.

6 At the time of filing the Joint Final Pretrial Conference
7 Statement, counsel shall also electronically mail to the Court in
8 digital format compatible with Microsoft Word or WordPerfect, the
9 Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement in its entirety
10 including the witness and exhibit lists. **These documents shall**
11 **be sent to: mceorders@caed.uscourts.gov.**

12 The parties should identify first the core undisputed facts
13 relevant to all claims. The parties should then, in a concise
14 manner, identify those undisputed core facts that are relevant to
15 each claim. The disputed facts should be identified in the same
16 manner. Where the parties are unable to agree as to what
17 disputed facts are properly before the Court for trial, they
18 should nevertheless list all disputed facts asserted by each
19 party. Each disputed fact or undisputed fact should be
20 separately numbered or lettered.

21 Each party shall identify and concisely list each disputed
22 evidentiary issue which will be the subject of a motion in
23 limine.

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1 Each party shall identify the points of law which concisely
2 describe the legal issues of the trial which will be discussed in
3 the parties' respective trial briefs. Points of law should
4 reflect issues derived from the core undisputed and disputed
5 facts. Parties shall not include argument or authorities with
6 any point of law.

7 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Local Rule 16-281
8 they are required to list in the Joint Final Pretrial Conference
9 Statement all witnesses and exhibits they propose to offer at
10 trial. After the name of each witness, each party shall provide
11 a brief statement of the nature of the testimony to be proffered.
12 The parties may file a joint list or each party may file separate
13 lists. These list(s) shall not be contained in the body of the
14 Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement itself, but shall be
15 attached as separate documents to be used as addenda to the Final
16 Pretrial Order.

17 Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed numerically.
18 Defendants' exhibits shall be listed alphabetically. The parties
19 shall use the standard exhibit stickers provided by the Court:
20 pink for Plaintiff and blue for Defendant. In the event that the
21 alphabet is exhausted, the exhibits shall be marked "AA-ZZ" and
22 "AAA-ZZZ" etc. All multi-page exhibits shall be stapled or
23 otherwise fastened together and each page within the exhibit
24 shall be numbered. The list of exhibits shall not include
25 excerpts of depositions, which may be used to impeach witnesses.
26 In the event that Plaintiff and Defendants' offer the same
27 exhibit during trial, that exhibit shall be referred to by the
28 designation the exhibit is first identified.

1 The Court cautions the parties to pay attention to this detail so
2 that all concerned will not be confused by one exhibit being
3 identified with both a number and a letter.

4 The Final Pretrial Order will contain a stringent standard
5 for the offering at trial of witnesses and exhibits not listed in
6 the Final Pretrial Order, and the parties are cautioned that the
7 standard will be strictly applied. On the other hand, the
8 listing of exhibits or witnesses that a party does not intend to
9 offer will be viewed as an abuse of the court's processes.

10 Counsel shall produce all trial exhibits to Stephanie
11 Deutsch, the Courtroom Clerk, no later than **3:00 p.m.** on
12 **August 16, 2010.**

13 The parties also are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16 of
14 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure it will be their duty at the
15 Final Pretrial Conference to aid the Court in: (a) the
16 formulation and simplification of issues and the elimination of
17 frivolous claims or defenses; (b) the settling of facts that
18 should properly be admitted; and (c) the avoidance of unnecessary
19 proof and cumulative evidence. Counsel must cooperatively
20 prepare the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement and
21 participate in good faith at the Final Pretrial Conference with
22 these aims in mind. A failure to do so may result in the
23 imposition of sanctions which may include monetary sanctions,
24 orders precluding proof, elimination of claims or defenses, or
25 such other sanctions as the Court deems appropriate.

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1 VIII. TRIAL SETTING

2 The trial is set for **August 23, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.** Trial
3 will be a bench trial. The parties estimate a trial length of
4 **five (5) days.**

5 IX. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

6 No settlement conference is currently scheduled. A
7 settlement conference may be set at the parties' request. In the
8 event a settlement conference date is requested, the parties
9 shall file said request jointly, in writing.

10 Counsel are instructed to have a principal with full
11 settlement authority present at the Settlement Conference or to
12 be fully authorized to settle the matter on any terms. At least
13 seven (7) calendar days before the settlement conference, counsel
14 for each party shall submit to the chambers of the settlement
15 judge a confidential Settlement Conference Statement. Such
16 statements are neither to be filed with the Clerk nor served on
17 opposing counsel. Each party, however, shall serve notice on all
18 other parties that the statement has been submitted. If the
19 settlement judge is not the trial judge, the Settlement
20 Conference Statement shall not be disclosed to the trial judge.

21 After the Final Pretrial Conference, the Court will not set
22 a settlement conference. The parties are free, however, to
23 continue to mediate or attempt to settle the case with the
24 understanding that the trial date is a firm date.

25 X. VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

26 Pursuant to Local Rule 16-271 parties will need to lodge a
27 stipulation and proposed order requesting referral to the
28 Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program.

1 XI. MODIFICATION OF PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

2 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the
3 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Status (Pretrial
4 Scheduling) Order shall not be modified except by leave of court
5 upon a showing of good cause. Agreement by the parties pursuant
6 to stipulation alone does not constitute good cause. Except in
7 extraordinary circumstances, unavailability of witnesses or
8 counsel does not constitute good cause.

9 XII. OBJECTIONS TO PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

10 This Status Order will become final without further order of
11 the Court unless objections are filed within seven (7) court days
12 of service of this Order.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 Dated: January 20, 2009

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16 MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR.
17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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