

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

THE DEVELOPMENT ACQUISITION GROUP, LLC, and TEAM INVESTORS, INC., No. 2:08-cv-03008-MCE-JFM

Plaintiffs, PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

V.

eaCONSULTING, INC., ROBITAH
MOHD-KHATIB,

Defendants.

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

III. JURISDICTION/VENUE

Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. section 1332.
Jurisdiction and venue are not contested.

1 IV. DISCOVERY

2 All discovery, with the exception of expert discovery, shall
3 be completed by **March 31, 2010**. In this context, "completed"
4 means that all discovery shall have been conducted so that all
5 depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to
6 discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if
7 necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has
8 been obeyed. All motions to compel discovery must be noticed on
9 the magistrate judge's calendar in accordance with the local
10 rules of this Court.

11 V. DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES

12 All counsel are to designate in writing, file with the Court,
13 and serve upon all other parties the name, address, and area of
14 expertise of each expert that they propose to tender at trial not
15 later than **May 28, 2010**.¹ The designation shall be accompanied by
16 a written report prepared and signed by the witness. The report
17 shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a) (2) (B).

18 Within twenty (20) days after the designation of expert
19 witnesses, any party may designate a supplemental list of expert
20 witnesses who will express an opinion on a subject covered by an
21 expert designated by an adverse party. The right to designate a
22 supplemental expert for rebuttal purposes only shall apply to a
23 party who has not previously disclosed an expert witness on the
24 date set for expert witness disclosure by this Pretrial
25 Scheduling Order.

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

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

- (a) that the necessity for the witness could not have been reasonably anticipated at the time the list was proffered;
- (b) that the Court and opposing counsel were promptly notified upon discovery of the witness; and (c) that the witness was promptly made available for deposition.

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

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

All experts designated are to be fully prepared at the time of designation to render an informed opinion, and give their bases for their opinion, so that they will be able to give full and complete testimony at any deposition taken by the opposing party.

1 Experts will not be permitted to testify at the trial as to any
2 information gathered or evaluated, or opinion formed, after
3 deposition taken subsequent to designation.

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

7 VI. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

8 All dispositive motions, except motions for continuances,
9 temporary restraining orders or other emergency applications,
10 shall be heard no later than July 30, 2010. The parties are
11 responsible for ensuring that all motions are filed to allow for
12 proper notice of the hearing under the Federal Rules of Civil
13 Procedure and/or Local Rules. Available hearing dates may be
14 obtained by calling Stephanie Deutsch, Courtroom Deputy Clerk, at
15 (916) 930-4207.

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

19 (a) The opposition and reply must be filed by **4:00 p.m.**
20 on the day due; and
21 (b) When the last day for filing an opposition brief
22 falls on a legal holiday, the opposition brief
23 shall be filed on the last court day immediately
24 preceding the legal holiday.

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

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

14 For the Court's convenience, citations to Supreme Court cases
15 should include parallel citations to the Supreme Court Reporter.

16 The parties are reminded that a motion in limine is a
17 pretrial procedural device designed to address the admissibility
18 of evidence. The Court will look with disfavor upon dispositive
19 motions (except those noted on page 3) presented at the Final
20 Pretrial Conference or at trial in the guise of motions in limine.

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

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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 VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

2 The Final Pretrial Conference is set for **December 16, 2010** at
3 **2:00 p.m.** At least one of the attorneys who will conduct the
4 trial for each of the parties shall attend the Final Pretrial
5 Conference. If by reason of illness or other unavoidable
6 circumstance a trial attorney is unable to attend, the attorney
7 who attends in place of the trial attorney shall have equal
8 familiarity with the case and equal authorization to make
9 commitments on behalf of the client.

10 Counsel for all parties are to be fully prepared for trial
11 at the time of the Final Pretrial Conference, with no matters
12 remaining to be accomplished except production of witnesses for
13 oral testimony.

14 The parties shall file, not later than **November 24, 2010**, a
15 Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement. The provisions of
16 Local Rules 16-281 shall apply with respect to the matters to be
17 included in the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement. In
18 addition to those subjects listed in Local Rule 16-281(b), the
19 parties are to provide the Court with a plain, concise statement
20 that identifies every non-discovery motion tendered to the Court
21 and its resolution. Failure to comply with Local Rule 16-281, as
22 modified by this Pretrial Scheduling Order, may be grounds for
23 sanctions.

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

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

16 Each party shall identify and concisely list each disputed
17 evidentiary issue which will be the subject of a motion in
18 limine.

19 Each party shall identify the points of law which concisely
20 describe the legal issues of the trial which will be discussed in
21 the parties' respective trial briefs. Points of law should
22 reflect issues derived from the core undisputed and disputed
23 facts. Parties shall not include argument or authorities with
24 any point of law.

25 The parties shall prepare a joint statement of the case in
26 plain concise language which will be read to the jury at the
27 beginning of the trial. The purpose of the joint statement is to
28 inform the jury what the case is about.

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

11 Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed numerically.
12 Defendants' exhibits shall be listed alphabetically. The parties
13 shall use the standard exhibit stickers provided by the Court
14 Clerk's Office: pink for Plaintiff and blue for Defendant. In
15 the event that the alphabet is exhausted, the exhibits shall be
16 marked "AA-ZZ" and "AAA-ZZZ" etc. After three letters, note the
17 number of letters in parenthesis (i.e., "AAAA(4)") to reduce
18 confusion at trial. All multi-page exhibits shall be stapled or
19 otherwise fastened together and each page within the exhibit
20 shall be numbered. All photographs shall be marked individually.
21 The list of exhibits shall not include excerpts of depositions,
22 which may be used to impeach witnesses. In the event that
23 Plaintiff and Defendants' offer the same exhibit during trial,
24 that exhibit shall be referred to by the designation the exhibit
25 is first identified. The Court cautions the parties to pay
26 attention to this detail so that all concerned, including the
27 jury, will not be confused by one exhibit being identified with
28 both a number and a letter.

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

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

20 VIII. TRIAL BRIEFS

21 The parties shall file trial briefs not later than
22 **December 2, 2010** by **4:00 p.m.** Counsel are directed to Local Rule
23 16-285 regarding the content of trial briefs.

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1 IX. EVIDENTIARY AND/OR PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

2 Any evidentiary or procedural motions are to be filed by
3 **November 24, 2010.** Oppositions must be filed by **December 2, 2010**
4 and any reply must be filed by **December 9, 2010.** The motions
5 will be heard by the Court at the same time as the Final Pretrial
6 Conference.

7 X. TRIAL SETTING

8 The trial is set for **January 31, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.** Trial
9 will be a bench trial. The parties estimate a trial length of
10 **two (2) days.**

11 XI. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

12 No settlement conference is currently scheduled. A
13 settlement conference may be set at the parties' request. In the
14 event a settlement conference date is requested, the parties
15 shall file said request jointly, in writing.

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

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

5 **XII. VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM**

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

9 **XIII. MODIFICATION OF PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

10 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the
11 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Pretrial Scheduling Order
12 shall not be modified except by leave of court upon a showing of
13 **good cause**. Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation
14 alone to modify the Pretrial Scheduling Order does not constitute
15 good cause. Except in extraordinary circumstances,
16 unavailability of witnesses or counsel will not constitute good
17 cause.

18 **XIV. OBJECTIONS TO PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

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

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 Dated: April 20, 2009

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MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR.
26 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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