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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JACK WILLIAMS and CARI WILLIAMS,
Plaintiffs,
v.
ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY,
Defendant.

No. 2:09-cv-01023-MCE-DAD
PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

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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 1441(b).
Jurisdiction and venue are not contested.

1 IV. DISCOVERY

2 All discovery, with the exception of expert discovery, shall
3 be completed by **May 14, 2010**. In this context, "completed" means
4 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
13 Court, and serve upon all other parties the name, address, and
14 area of expertise of each expert that they propose to tender at
15 trial not later than **July 14, 2010**.¹ The designation shall be
16 accompanied by a written report prepared and signed by the
17 witness. The report shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P.
18 26(a) (2) (B).

19 Within twenty (20) days after the designation of expert
20 witnesses, any party may designate a supplemental list of expert
21 witnesses who will express an opinion on a subject covered by an
22 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 Pretrial 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 Pretrial Scheduling Order, an "expert"
16 is any 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 **September 14, 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, Courtroom Deputy Clerk, at
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 presented at the Final Pretrial Conference
5 or at trial in the guise of motions in limine.

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

10 VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

11 The Final Pretrial Conference is set for **January 13, 2011** at
12 **2:00 p.m.** At least one of the attorneys who will conduct the
13 trial for each of the parties shall attend the Final Pretrial
14 Conference. If by reason of illness or other unavoidable
15 circumstance a trial attorney is unable to attend, the attorney
16 who attends in place of the trial attorney shall have equal
17 familiarity with the case and equal authorization to make
18 commitments on behalf of the client.

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

23 The parties shall file, not later than **December 23, 2010**, a
24 Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement. The provisions of
25 Local Rules 16-281 shall apply with respect to the matters to be
26 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 Pretrial Scheduling Order, may be grounds for
6 sanctions.

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

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

22 Each party shall identify and concisely list each disputed
23 evidentiary issue which will be the subject of a motion in
24 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 shall prepare a joint statement of the case in
8 plain concise language which will be read to the jury at the
9 beginning of the trial. The purpose of the joint statement is to
10 inform the jury what the case is about.

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

21 Plaintiffs' exhibits shall be listed numerically.
22 Defendant's exhibits shall be listed alphabetically. The parties
23 shall use the standard exhibit stickers provided by the Court
24 Clerk's Office: pink for Plaintiff and blue for Defendant. In
25 the event that the alphabet is exhausted, the exhibits shall be
26 marked "AA-ZZ" and "AAA-ZZZ" etc. After three letters, note the
27 number of letters in parenthesis (i.e., "AAAA(4)") to reduce
28 confusion at trial.

1 All multi-page exhibits shall be stapled or otherwise fastened
2 together and each page within the exhibit shall be numbered. All
3 photographs shall be marked individually. The list of exhibits
4 shall not include excerpts of depositions, which may be used to
5 impeach witnesses. In the event that Plaintiffs' and Defendant
6 offer the same exhibit during trial, that exhibit shall be
7 referred to by the designation the exhibit is first identified.
8 The Court cautions the parties to pay attention to this detail so
9 that all concerned, including the jury, will not be confused by
10 one exhibit being identified with both a number and a letter.

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

17 The parties also are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16 of
18 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure it will be their duty at the
19 Final Pretrial Conference to aid the Court in: (a) the
20 formulation and simplification of issues and the elimination of
21 frivolous claims or defenses; (b) the settling of facts that
22 should properly be admitted; and (c) the avoidance of unnecessary
23 proof and cumulative evidence. Counsel must cooperatively
24 prepare the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement and
25 participate in good faith at the Final Pretrial Conference with
26 these aims in mind.

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1 A failure to do so may result in the imposition of sanctions
2 which may include monetary sanctions, orders precluding proof,
3 elimination of claims or defenses, or such other sanctions as the
4 Court deems appropriate.

5 VIII. TRIAL BRIEFS

6 The parties shall file trial briefs not later than
7 **December 30, 2010** by **4:00 p.m.** Counsel are directed to Local
8 Rule 16-285 regarding the content of trial briefs.

9 IX. EVIDENTIARY AND/OR PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

10 Any evidentiary or procedural motions are to be filed by
11 **December 23, 2010**. Oppositions must be filed by **December 30,**
12 **2010** and any reply must be filed by **January 6, 2011**. The motions
13 will be heard by the Court at the same time as the Final Pretrial
14 Conference.

15 X. TRIAL SETTING

16 The trial is set for **March 14, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.** Trial will
17 be by jury. The panel will consist of **eight (8) jurors**. The
18 parties estimate a trial length of **ten (10) days**.

19 XI. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

20 At the Final Pretrial Conference, the Court may set a
21 settlement conference if the parties so request. In the event no
22 settlement conference is requested, the parties are free to
23 continue to mediate or attempt to settle the case with the
24 understanding that the trial date is a firm date.

25 In the event a settlement conference is set by the Court,
26 counsel are instructed to have a principal with full settlement
27 authority present at the Settlement Conference or to be fully
28 authorized to settle the matter on any terms.

1 At least seven (7) calendar days before the settlement
2 conference, counsel for each party shall submit to the chambers
3 of the settlement judge a confidential Settlement Conference
4 Statement. Such statements are neither to be filed with the
5 Clerk nor served on opposing counsel. Each party, however, shall
6 serve notice on all other parties that the statement has been
7 submitted. If the settlement judge is not the trial judge, the
8 Settlement Conference Statement shall not be disclosed to the
9 trial judge.

10 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties may request a
11 settlement conference prior to the Final Pretrial Conference if
12 they feel it would lead to the possible resolution of the case.
13 In the event an early settlement conference date is requested,
14 the parties shall file said request jointly, in writing. The
15 request must state whether the parties waive disqualification,
16 pursuant to Local Rule 16-270(b), before a settlement judge can
17 be assigned to the case. Absent the parties' affirmatively
18 requesting that the assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge
19 participate in the settlement conference AND waiver, pursuant to
20 Local Rule 16-270(b), a settlement judge will be randomly
21 assigned to the case.

22 XII. VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

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

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1 XIII. 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 Pretrial Scheduling Order
4 shall not be modified except by leave of court upon a showing of
5 **good cause**. Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation
6 alone to modify the Pretrial Scheduling Order does not constitute
7 good cause. Except in extraordinary circumstances,
8 unavailability of witnesses or counsel will not constitute good
9 cause.

10 XIV. OBJECTIONS TO PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

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

14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 Dated: August 7, 2009

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18 MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR.
19 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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