Donets v. DeFreece et al

Doc. 13

Danilowitz appeared as counsel for plaintiff; Bruce A. Kilday appeared as counsel for defendants. After hearing, the court makes the following findings and orders:

## SERVICE OF PROCESS

3

5

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

15

16

20

Plaintiff is granted sixty (60) days after service of Rule 26 discovery to add parties without further order of the court. Thereafter, no service is permitted without leave of court.

# JOINDER OF PARTIES/AMENDMENTS

No further amendments to pleadings is permitted except with leave of court, good cause having been shown. See Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604 (9th Cir. 1992).

## JURISDICTION/VENUE

Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 is undisputed and is hereby found to be proper, as is venue.

### MOTION HEARING SCHEDULES

All law and motion except as to discovery is left open, save 17 and except that it shall be conducted so as to be completed by September 29, 2011. The word "completed" in this context means that all law and motion matters must be heard by the above date. Because this date is not necessarily a date previously set aside for law and motion hearings, it is incumbent upon counsel to 22 contact this court's courtroom deputy, Ana Rivas at (916) 930-4133, 23 sufficiently in advance so as to ascertain the dates upon which law 24 and motion will be heard and to properly notice its motion for 25 hearing before that date. Counsel are cautioned to refer to Local 26 Rule 230 regarding the requirements for noticing such motions on

the court's regularly scheduled law and motion calendar. Opposition or statement of non-opposition to all motions shall be 3 filed not later than 4:30 p.m. fourteen (14) days preceding the hearing date, or by proof of service by mail not less than 5 seventeen (17) days preceding the hearing date. This paragraph does not preclude motions for continuances, temporary restraining orders or other emergency applications, and is subject to any special scheduling set forth in the "MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS" paragraph below.

At the time of filing a motion, opposition, or reply, counsel are directed to email a copy in word processing format to pleadings@caed.uscourts.gov.

10

11

12

13

23

The parties should keep in mind that the purpose of law and motion is to narrow and refine the legal issues raised by the case, 15 and to dispose of by pretrial motion those issues that are 16 susceptible to resolution without trial. To accomplish that 17 purpose, the parties need to identify and fully research the issues presented by the case, and then examine those issues in light of the evidence gleaned through discovery. If it appears to counsel after examining the legal issues and facts that an issue can be resolved by pretrial motion, counsel are to file the appropriate motion by the law and motion cutoff set forth supra.

Unless prior permission has been granted, memoranda of law in 24 support of and in opposition to motions are limited to thirty (30) 25 pages, and reply memoranda are limited to fifteen (15) pages. 26 parties are also cautioned against filing multiple briefs to

#### circumvent this rule.

2

6

14

17

18

19

20

21

22

Where the parties bring motions for summary judgment, the 3 court will deem facts which are apparently undisputed as undisputed under Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(d), unless specifically reserved and that 5 party tenders evidence to support the reservation.

ALL PURELY LEGAL ISSUES ARE TO BE RESOLVED BY TIMELY PRETRIAL MOTION AND A FAILURE TO MAKE SUCH A MOTION WILL ORDINARILY BE VIEWED AS A WAIVER AT THE TIME OF PRETRIAL. COUNSEL ARE CAUTIONED THAT IF ANY LEGAL ISSUE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TENDERED TO THE COURT BY PRETRIAL MOTION MUST BE RESOLVED BY THE COURT AFTER LAW AND MOTION CUTOFF, FOR INSTANCE WHERE THE ISSUE IS JURISDICTION, SUBSTANTIAL SANCTIONS WILL BE LEVIED AGAINST COUNSEL WHO FAIL TO TIMELY FILE AN APPROPRIATE MOTION.

Counsel are further reminded that motions in limine are procedural devices designed to address the admissibility of evidence. COUNSEL ARE CAUTIONED THAT THE COURT WILL LOOK WITH DISFAVOR UPON SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS PRESENTED IN THE GUISE OF MOTIONS IN LIMINE AT THE TIME OF TRIAL.

## **DISCOVERY**

No modifications of the discovery requirements found in the Federal Rules is ordered.

All discovery is left open, save and except that it shall be 23  $\parallel$ so conducted as to be completed by July 29, 2011. The word 24 "completed" means that all discovery shall have been conducted so that all depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to 26 discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order

necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has been complied with. Motions to compel discovery must be noticed on the magistrate judge's calendar in accordance with the local rules of this court and so that such motions will be heard not later than June 29, 2011. In this regard, all counsel are to designate in writing and file with the court and serve upon all other parties a final list of the names of all experts that they propose to tender at trial not later than forty-five (45) days before the close of discovery herein established. At the time of designation, all experts shall submit a written report. The contents of the report must comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 (A)(2)(b). All experts so designated are to be fully prepared to render an informed opinion at the time of designation so that they may fully participate in any deposition taken by the opposing party. Experts will not be permitted to testify at the trial as to any information gathered or evaluated, or opinion formed, after deposition taken subsequent to designation.

An expert witness not appearing on said lists will not be permitted to testify unless the party offering the witness demonstrates: (a) that the necessity of the witness could not have been reasonably anticipated at the time the lists were exchanged; (b) the court and opposing counsel were promptly notified upon discovery of the witness; and (c) that the witness was promptly proffered for deposition.

## MID-LITIGATION STATEMENTS

17

18

20

24

25

26

Not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the close of

discovery, all parties shall file with the court and serve on all other parties a brief statement summarizing all law and motion 3 practice heard by the court as of the date of the filing of the statement, whether the court has disposed of the motion at the time the statement is filed and served, and the likelihood that any further motions will be noticed prior to the close of law and motion. The filing of this statement shall not relieve the parties or counsel of their obligation to timely notice all appropriate motions as set forth above.

#### FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

10

11

12

14

17

24

The Final Pretrial Conference is SET for December 19, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. Counsel are cautioned that counsel appearing for Pretrial will in fact try the matter.

Counsel for all parties are to be fully prepared for trial at the time of the Pretrial Conference, with no matters remaining to 16 be accomplished except production of witnesses for oral testimony. Counsel are referred to Local Rules 280 and 281 relating to the contents of and time for filing Pretrial Statements. In addition to those subjects listed in Local Rule 281(b), the parties are to provide the court with a plain, concise statement which identifies every non-discovery motion tendered to the court, and resolution. A FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH LOCAL RULES 280 AND 281 WILL 23 BE GROUNDS FOR SANCTIONS.

The parties shall file Separate Pretrial Statements, the contents and timing of which are set forth in Local Rule 281, 26 except that the parties are to prepare a JOINT STATEMENT with

respect to the undisputed facts and disputed factual issues of the case. See Local Rule 281(b)(3), (4), and (6). The parties are 3 reminded to include in their joint statement all disputed and undisputed special factual information as required by Local Rule 281 (b) (6).

5

11

25

26

The undisputed facts and disputed factual issues are to be set forth in two separate sections. In each section, the parties should identify first the general facts relevant to all causes of action. After identifying the general facts, the parties should then identify those facts which are relevant to each separate cause In this regard, the parties are to number each of action. individual fact or factual issue. Where the parties are unable to agree as to what factual issues are properly before the court for trial, they should nevertheless list in the section on "DISPUTED FACTUAL ISSUES" all issues asserted by any of the parties and 16 explain by parenthetical the controversy concerning each issue. 17 Each individual disputed fact or factual issue shall include the following introductory language: "Whether or not . . . ." parties should keep in mind that, in general, each fact should relate or correspond to an element of the relevant cause of action. Notwithstanding the provisions of Local Rule 281, the Joint Statement of Undisputed Facts and Disputed Factual Issues is to be 23 filed with the court concurrently with the filing of plaintiff's 24 Pretrial Statement. If the case is tried to a jury, the undisputed facts will be read to the jury.

Pursuant to Local Rule 281(b)(10) and (11), the parties are

required to provide in their Pretrial Statements a list of 2 witnesses and exhibits that they propose to proffer at trial, no 3 matter for what purpose. These lists shall not be contained in the Pretrial Statement itself, but shall be attached as separate documents to be used as addenda to the Final Pretrial Order. Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed numerically; defendant's exhibits shall be listed alphabetically. In the event that the alphabet is exhausted, defendant's exhibits shall be marked "2A-2Z, 3A-3Z, etc." The Pretrial Order will contain a stringent standard for the proffering of witnesses and exhibits at trial not listed in the Pretrial Order. Counsel are cautioned that the standard will be strictly applied. On the other hand, the listing of exhibits or witnesses which counsel do not intend to call or use will be viewed as an abuse of the court's processes.

Pursuant to Local Rule 281(b)(12), a party is required to 16 provide a list of all answers to interrogatories and responses to requests for admission that the party expects to offer at trial. This list should include only those documents or portions thereof which the party expects to offer in its case-in-chief. otherwise barred by a rule of evidence or order of this court, the parties remain free to tender appropriate discovery documents during trial for such purposes as, but not limited to, impeachment or memory refreshment.

15

20

21

23

24

Pursuant to Local Rule 281(b)(8), the parties' Pretrial Statements shall contain a "statement of legal theory, etc." Each 26 party shall commence this section by specifying as to each claim

whether federal or state law governs, and if state law, the state 2 whose law is applicable.

Counsel are also reminded that, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16, it will be their duty at the Pretrial Conference to aid the 5 court in (a) formulation and simplification of issues and the 6 elimination of frivolous claims or defenses; (b) settling of facts which should be properly admitted; and (c) the avoidance of unnecessary proof and cumulative evidence. Counsel must prepare their Pretrial Statements, and participate in good faith at the 10 Pretrial Conference, with these aims in mind. A FAILURE TO DO SO 11 MAY RESULT IN THE IMPOSITION of SANCTIONS which may include 12 monetary sanctions, orders precluding proof, eliminations of claims 13 or defenses, or such other sanctions as the deems court appropriate.

#### TRIAL SETTING

Trial is SET for March 20, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. Trial will be 17 by jury. The parties represent in good faith that the trial will take approximately five (5) days.

## SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

A Settlement Conference will be set before a judge other than the trial judge at the time of the Pretrial Conference.

Counsel are cautioned to have a principal capable 23 disposition present at the Settlement Conference or to be fully 24 authorized to settle the matter on any terms and at the Settlement 25 Conference.

26 ////

3

15

16

19

20

21

22

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1

2

9

10

11

14

19

23

The parties are reminded that pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 3 16(b), the Status (pretrial scheduling) Order shall not be modified except by leave of court upon a showing of good cause. Counsel are cautioned that changes to any of the scheduled dates will 6 necessarily result in changes to all other dates. Thus, even where good cause has been shown, the court will not grant a request to change the discovery cutoff date without modifying the pretrial and trial dates.

Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation does not constitute good cause. Nor does the unavailability of witnesses or counsel, except in extraordinary circumstances, constitute good 13 cause.

The parties are reminded of their continuing obligation to 15 supplement their statements relative to the identification of 16 parent corporations and any publicly held company that owns 10% or 17 more of the party's stock within a reasonable time of any change in 18 the information.

The parties are admonished that they are not to cite or refer to any of the quotations inscribed in the pavers on the front plaza of the United States Courthouse in any written or oral presentation 22 to the court or a jury.

There appear to be no other matters presently pending before 24 the court that will aid the just and expeditious disposition of 25 this matter.

26 ////

	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	
1	0	
1	1	
1	2	
1	3	
1	4	
1	5	
1	6	
1	7	
1	8	
1	9	
2	0	
2	1	
2	2	
2	3	
2	4	

25

26

IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED: January 14, 2011.

LAWRENCE K. KARLTON SENIOR JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT