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| 8 | UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT | |
| 9 | EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA | |
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| 11 | SCOTT N. JOHNSON, No. 2:11-cv-01611-MCE-DAD | |
| 12 | Plaintiff, | |
| 13 | v. <u>PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER</u> | |
| 14 | CLUTCH & BRAKE XCHANGE, INC., etc. et al., | |
| 15 | Defendants. | |
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| 17 | After reviewing the parties' Joint Status Report, the Court | |
| 18 | makes the following Pretrial Scheduling Order. | |
| 19 | I. <u>SERVICE OF PROCESS</u> | |
| 20 | All named Defendants have been served and no further service | |
| 21 | is permitted without leave of court, good cause having been | |
| 22 | shown. | |
| 23 | II. <u>ADDITIONAL PARTIES/AMENDMENTS/PLEADINGS</u> | |
| 24 | No joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is | |
| 25 | permitted without leave of court, good cause having been shown. | |
| 26 | III. <u>JURISDICTION/VENUE</u> | |
| 27 | Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 and | |
| 28 | 1367. Jurisdiction and venue are not contested. | |
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IV. <u>DISCOVERY</u>

All discovery, with the exception of expert discovery, shall 2 be completed by November 16, 2012. In this context, "completed" 3 means that all discovery shall have been conducted so that all 4 depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to 5 discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if 6 necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has 7 been obeyed. All motions to compel discovery must be noticed on 8 9 the magistrate judge's calendar in accordance with the local rules of this Court. 10

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V. <u>DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES</u>

All counsel are to designate in writing, file with the Court, and serve upon all other parties the name, address, and area of expertise of each expert that they propose to tender at trial not later than **January 16**, **2013**.¹ The designation shall be accompanied by a written report prepared and signed by the witness. The report shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B).

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

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

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

5 Failure of a party to comply with the disclosure schedule as set forth above in all likelihood will preclude that party from 6 7 calling the expert witness at the time of trial. An expert witness not appearing on the designation will not be permitted to 8 9 testify unless the party offering the witness demonstrates: (a) that the necessity for the witness could not have been 10 reasonably anticipated at the time the list was proffered; 11 12 (b) that the Court and opposing counsel were promptly notified upon discovery of the witness; and (c) that the witness was 13 promptly made available for deposition. 14

15 For purposes of this Pretrial Scheduling Order, an "expert" is any person who my be used at trial to present evidence under 16 Rules 702, 703, and 705 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, which 17 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 case) and "retained experts" (persons specifically designated by 21 22 a party to be a testifying expert for the purposes of 23 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.

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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. 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.

11 Counsel are instructed to complete all discovery of expert 12 witnesses in a timely manner in order to comply with the Court's 13 deadline for filing dispositive motions.

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VI. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

15 The last day to hear dispositive motions shall be May 16, 16 2013. The parties shall comply with the following filing 17 deadlines:

| Dispositive motion | filed at least 8 weeks prior to hearing |
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| Opposition and any cross-motion | filed at least 5 weeks prior to hearing |
| Reply and opposition to cross-motion | filed at least 3 weeks prior to hearing |
| Reply to cross-motion | filed at least 1 week prior to hearing |

The parties are directed to the Court's website for available hearing dates. (www.caed.uscourts.gov → choose Court Calendar → choose Judge England → choose More Calendaring Information) 1 All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely 2 pretrial motions. Failure to comply with Local Rules 230 and 260, as modified by this Order, may be deemed consent to the 3 motion and the Court may dispose of the motion summarily. 4 Further, failure to timely oppose a summary judgment motion² may 5 result in the granting of that motion if the movant shifts the 6 burden to the nonmovant to demonstrate that a genuine issue of 7 material fact remains for trial. 8

9 The Court places a page limit for points and authorities 10 (exclusive of exhibits and other supporting documentation) of 11 twenty (20) pages on all initial moving papers, twenty (20) pages 12 on oppositions, and ten (10) pages for replies. All requests for 13 page limit increases must be made in writing to the Court setting 14 forth any and all reasons for any increase in page limit at least 15 fourteen (14) days prior to the filing of the motion.

16 For the Court's convenience, citations to Supreme Court 17 cases should include parallel citations to the Supreme Court 18 Reporter.

The parties are reminded that a motion <u>in limine</u> is a pretrial procedural device designed to address the admissibility of evidence. The Court will look with disfavor upon dispositional motions presented at the Final Pretrial Conference or at trial in the guise of motions <u>in limine</u>.

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^{27 &}lt;sup>2</sup> The Court urges any party that contemplates bringing a motion for summary judgment or who must oppose a motion for summary judgment to review Local Rule 260.

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

VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

The Final Pretrial Conference is set for July 25, 2013, at 6 7 2:00 p.m. At least one of the attorneys who will conduct the trial for each of the parties shall attend the Final Pretrial 8 9 Conference. If by reason of illness or other unavoidable 10 circumstance a trial attorney is unable to attend, the attorney who attends in place of the trial attorney shall have equal 11 12 familiarity with the case and equal authorization to make commitments on behalf of the client. 13

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

The parties shall file, not later than July 3, 2013, a Joint 18 19 Final Pretrial Conference Statement. The provisions of Local 20 Rules 281 shall apply with respect to the matters to be included in the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement. 21 In addition to those subjects listed in Local Rule 281(b), the parties are to 22 23 provide the Court with a plain, concise statement that identifies 24 every non-discovery motion tendered to the Court and its 25 resolution. Failure to comply with Local Rule 281, as modified 26 by this Pretrial Scheduling Order, may be grounds for sanctions. 27 111

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed numerically. 11 12 Defendants' exhibits shall be listed alphabetically. The parties 13 shall use the standard exhibit stickers provided by the Court Clerk's Office: pink for plaintiff and blue for defendant. 14 In 15 the event that the alphabet is exhausted, the exhibits shall be marked "AA-ZZ" and "AAA-ZZZ" etc. After three letters, note the 16 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.

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

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

VIII. TRIAL BRIEFS

The parties shall file trial briefs not later than **July 11**, **2013**. Counsel are directed to Local Rule 285 regarding the content of trial briefs.

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IX. EVIDENTIARY AND/OR PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Any evidentiary or procedural motions are to be filed by July 3, 2013. Oppositions must be filed by July 11, 2013, and any reply must be filed by July 18, 2013. The motions will be heard by the Court at the same time as the Final Pretrial Conference.

X. TRIAL SETTING

8 The trial is set for **September 16**, **2013**, **at 9:00 a.m**. Trial 9 will be by jury. The panel will consist of **seven (7) jurors**. 10 The parties estimate a trial length of **three (3) days**.

XI. <u>SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE</u>

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

17 In the event a settlement conference is set by the Court, 18 counsel are instructed to have a principal with full settlement 19 authority present at the Settlement Conference or to be fully 20 authorized to settle the matter on any terms. At least seven (7) 21 calendar days before the settlement conference, counsel for each party shall submit to the chambers of the settlement judge a 22 confidential Settlement Conference Statement. Such statements 23 24 are neither to be filed with the Clerk nor served on opposing 25 counsel. Each party, however, shall serve notice on all other 26 parties that the statement has been submitted. If the settlement 27 judge is not the trial judge, the Settlement Conference Statement 28 shall not be disclosed to the trial judge.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties may request a 1 2 settlement conference prior to the Final Pretrial Conference if they feel it would lead to the possible resolution of the case. 3 In the event an early settlement conference date is requested, 4 the parties shall file said request jointly, in writing. 5 The request must state whether the parties waive disqualification, 6 pursuant to Local Rule 270(b), before a settlement judge can be 7 assigned to the case. Absent the parties' affirmatively 8 9 requesting that the assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge participate in the settlement conference AND waiver, pursuant to 10 Local Rule 270(b), a settlement judge will be randomly assigned 11 to the case. 12

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XII. VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

Pursuant to Local Rule 271 parties will need to lodge a 15 stipulation and proposed order requesting referral to the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program. 16

XIII. MODIFICATION OF PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

18 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the 19 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Pretrial Scheduling Order 20 shall not be modified except by leave of court upon a showing of 21 good cause. Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation alone to modify the Pretrial Scheduling Order does not constitute 22 23 good cause. Except in extraordinary circumstances, 24 unavailability of witnesses or counsel will not constitute good 25 cause.

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| 1 | XIV. OBJECTIONS TO PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER |
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| 2 | This Pretrial Scheduling Order will become final without |
| 3 | further order of the Court unless objections are filed within |
| 4 | seven (7) <u>court</u> days of service of this Order. |
| 5 | IT IS SO ORDERED. |
| 6 | Dated: October 17, 2011 |
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| 9 | MORRISON C. ENGL <mark>AND, M</mark> R.) UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE |
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