

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SCOTT JOHNSON,

No. 2:11-cv-01673-MCE-DAD

Plaintiff,

v.

AMENDED PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

FLOORING BY GEORGE, INC.,  
et al.,

Defendants.

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The Court amends its Pretrial Scheduling Order to vacate the referral to the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program ("VDRP").

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. §§ 1331, 1343, 1367. Jurisdiction and venue are not contested.

1 IV. DISCOVERY

2 All discovery, with the exception of expert discovery, shall  
3 be completed by **October 5, 2012**. 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  
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 **December 5, 2012**.<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup> 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).

24 Each party shall identify whether a disclosed expert is  
25 percipient, retained, or both. It will be assumed that a party  
26 designating a retained expert has acquired the express permission  
27 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.

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

#### VI. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

The last day to hear dispositive motions shall be **April 4, 2013**. The parties shall comply with the following filing deadlines:

Dispositive motion	filed at least 8 weeks prior to hearing
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](http://www.caed.uscourts.gov) → choose Court Calendar → choose Judge England → choose More Calendaring Information)

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1 All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely  
2 pretrial motions. Failure to comply with Local Rules 230 and  
3 260, as modified by this Order, may be deemed consent to the  
4 motion and the Court may dispose of the motion summarily.  
5 Further, failure to timely oppose a summary judgment motion<sup>2</sup> may  
6 result in the granting of that motion if the movant shifts the  
7 burden to the nonmovant to demonstrate that a genuine issue of  
8 material fact remains for trial.

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.

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

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27 <sup>2</sup> 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 260.

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

5 VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

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

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

18 The parties shall file, not later than **May 23, 2013**, a Joint  
19 Final Pretrial Conference Statement. The provisions of Local  
20 Rules 281 shall apply with respect to the matters to be included  
21 in the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement. In addition to  
22 those subjects listed in Local Rule 281(b), the parties are to  
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.

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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 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 **May 30,**  
22 **2013.** Counsel are directed to Local Rule 285 regarding the  
23 content of trial briefs.

24 **IX. EVIDENTIARY AND/OR PROCEDURAL MOTIONS**

25 Any evidentiary or procedural motions are to be filed by  
26 **May 23, 2013.** Oppositions must be filed by **May 30, 2013,** and any  
27 reply must be filed by **June 6, 2013.** The motions will be heard  
28 by the Court at the same time as the Final Pretrial Conference.

1       X.   TRIAL SETTING

2       The trial is set for **August 5, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.** Trial  
3 will be by jury. The panel will consist of **seven (7) jurors.**  
4 The parties estimate a trial length of **two (2) days.**

5       XI.   SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

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

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

23       Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties may request a  
24 settlement conference prior to the Final Pretrial Conference if  
25 they feel it would lead to the possible resolution of the case.  
26 In the event an early settlement conference date is requested,  
27 the parties shall file said request jointly, in writing.

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1 The request must state whether the parties waive  
2 disqualification, pursuant to Local Rule 270(b), before a  
3 settlement judge can be assigned to the case. Absent the  
4 parties' affirmatively requesting that the assigned Judge or  
5 Magistrate Judge participate in the settlement conference AND  
6 waiver, pursuant to Local Rule 270(b), a settlement judge will be  
7 randomly assigned to the case.

8 XII. VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

9 The parties may not request referral to the VDRP or a  
10 judge-convened settlement conference until the Court receives, in  
11 writing from both parties, a status report describing what steps  
12 they have taken to settle the case on their own and a  
13 representation that they have exhausted other settlement  
14 possibilities.

15 XIII. MODIFICATION OF PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

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

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1           XIV. OBJECTIONS TO PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

2           This Pretrial Scheduling Order will become final without  
3 further order of the Court unless objections are filed within  
4 seven (7) court days of service of this Order.

5           IT IS SO ORDERED.

6           Dated: November 28, 2011

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10 MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR.  
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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