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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BETTINA TANFORAN,  
Plaintiff,

NO. CIV. S-13-0762 LKK/KJN

v.

HARTFORD LIFE AND ACCIDENT  
INSURANCE COMPANY,  
Defendant.

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**STATUS (PRETRIAL SCHEDULING) CONFERENCE**

READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT DATES WHICH THE COURT WILL STRICTLY ENFORCE AND WITH WHICH ALL COUNSEL AND PARTIES MUST COMPLY. A FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THIS ORDER MAY RESULT IN THE IMPOSITION OF MONETARY AND ALL OTHER SANCTIONS WITHIN THE POWER OF THE COURT, INCLUDING DISMISSAL OR AN ORDER OF JUDGMENT.

Pursuant to court order, a Status (Pretrial Scheduling) Conference was held in chambers on July 8, 2013. Robert J. Rosati appeared telephonically as counsel for plaintiff; Edith S. Shea

1 appeared telephonically as counsel for defendant. After hearing,  
2 the court makes the following findings and orders:

3 **SERVICE OF PROCESS**

4 All parties defendant have been served and no further service  
5 is permitted except with leave of court, good cause having been  
6 shown.

7 **JOINER OF PARTIES/AMENDMENTS**

8 No further joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is  
9 permitted except with leave of court, good cause having been shown.  
10 See Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604 (9th Cir.  
11 1992).

12 **JURISDICTION/VENUE**

13 Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. § 1332, is  
14 undisputed, and is hereby found to be proper, as is venue.

15 **MOTION HEARING SCHEDULES**

16 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  
18 May 8, 2014. The word "completed" in this context means that all  
19 law and motion matters must be **heard** by the above date. Because  
20 this date is not necessarily a date previously set aside for law  
21 and motion hearings, it is incumbent upon counsel to contact this  
22 court's courtroom deputy, Ana Rivas at (916) 930-4133, sufficiently  
23 in advance so as to ascertain the dates upon which law and motion  
24 will be heard and to properly notice its motion for hearing before  
25 that date. Counsel are cautioned to refer to Local Rule 230  
26 regarding the requirements for noticing such motions on the court's

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

9 At the time of filing a motion, opposition, or reply, counsel  
10 are directed to email a copy in word processing format to [lk-](mailto:lk-pleadings@caed.uscourts.gov)  
11 [pleadings@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:pleadings@caed.uscourts.gov).

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

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

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

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

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

18           **DISCOVERY**

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

21           All discovery is left open, save and except that it shall be  
22 so conducted as to be completed by March 8, 2014. The word  
23 "completed" means that all discovery shall have been conducted so  
24 that all depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to  
25 discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if  
26 necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has been

1 complied with. Motions to compel discovery must be noticed on the  
2 magistrate judge's calendar in accordance with the local rules of  
3 this court and so that such motions will be heard not later than  
4 February 8, 2014. In this regard, all counsel are to designate in  
5 writing and file with the court and serve upon all other parties a  
6 final list of the names of all experts that they propose to tender  
7 at trial not later than sixty (60) days before the close of  
8 discovery herein established. All designated experts shall submit  
9 written reports which counsel shall exchange at the time of  
10 designation. The contents of the report must comply with Fed. R.  
11 Civ. P. 26 (a)(2)(B). All experts so designated are to be fully  
12 prepared to render an informed opinion at the time of designation  
13 so that they may fully participate in any deposition taken by the  
14 opposing party. Experts will not be permitted to testify at the  
15 trial as to any information gathered or evaluated, or opinion  
16 formed, after deposition taken subsequent to designation.

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

24 **MID-LITIGATION STATEMENTS**

25 Not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the close of  
26 discovery, all parties shall file with the court and serve on all

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

9 **FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE**

10 The Final Pretrial Conference is **SET** for August 11, 2014, at  
11 2:30 p.m. Counsel are cautioned that counsel appearing for  
12 Pretrial will in fact try the matter.

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

23 The parties shall file Separate Pretrial Statements, the  
24 contents and timing of which are set forth in Local Rule 281,  
25 except that the parties are to prepare a JOINT STATEMENT with  
26 respect to the undisputed facts and disputed factual issues of the

1 case. See Local Rule 281(b)(3), (4), and (6). The parties are  
2 reminded to include in their joint statement all disputed and  
3 undisputed special factual information as required by Local Rule  
4 281(b)(6). Notwithstanding the provisions of Local Rule 281, the  
5 Joint Statement of Undisputed Facts and Disputed Factual Issues is  
6 to be filed with the court concurrently with the filing of  
7 plaintiff's Pretrial Statement.

8         The undisputed facts and disputed factual issues are to be set  
9 forth in two separate sections. In each section, the parties  
10 should identify first the general facts relevant to all causes of  
11 action. After identifying the general facts, the parties should  
12 then identify those facts which are relevant to each separate cause  
13 of action. In this regard, the parties are to number each  
14 individual fact or factual issue. Where the parties are unable to  
15 agree as to what factual issues are properly before the court for  
16 trial, they should nevertheless list in the section on "DISPUTED  
17 FACTUAL ISSUES" all issues asserted by any of the parties and  
18 explain by parenthetical the controversy concerning each issue.  
19 Each individual disputed fact or factual issue shall include the  
20 following introductory language: "Whether or not . . . ." The  
21 parties should keep in mind that, in general, each fact should  
22 relate or correspond to an element of the relevant cause of action.  
23 If the case is tried to a jury, the undisputed facts will be read  
24 to the jury.

25         Pursuant to Local Rule 281(b)(10) and (11), the parties are  
26 required to provide in their Pretrial Statements a list of

1 witnesses and exhibits that they propose to proffer at trial, no  
2 matter for what purpose. These lists shall not be contained in the  
3 Pretrial Statement itself, but shall be attached as separate  
4 documents to be used as addenda to the Final Pretrial Order.  
5 Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed numerically; defendant's  
6 exhibits shall be listed alphabetically. In the event that the  
7 alphabet is exhausted, defendant's exhibits shall be marked "2A-2Z,  
8 3A-3Z, etc." The Pretrial Order will contain a stringent standard  
9 for the proffering of witnesses and exhibits at trial not listed in  
10 the Pretrial Order. Counsel are cautioned that the standard will  
11 be strictly applied. On the other hand, the listing of exhibits or  
12 witnesses which counsel do not intend to call or use will be viewed  
13 as an abuse of the court's processes.

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

23 Pursuant to Local Rule 281(b)(8), the parties' Pretrial  
24 Statements shall contain a "statement of legal theory, etc." Each  
25 party shall commence this section by specifying as to each claim  
26 whether federal or state law governs, and if state law, the state



1 whose law is applicable.

2 Counsel are also reminded that, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.  
3 16, it will be their duty at the Pretrial Conference to aid the  
4 court in (a) formulation and simplification of issues and the  
5 elimination of frivolous claims or defenses; (b) settling of facts  
6 which should be properly admitted; and (c) the avoidance of  
7 unnecessary proof and cumulative evidence. Counsel must prepare  
8 their Pretrial Statements, and participate in good faith at the  
9 Pretrial Conference, with these aims in mind. A FAILURE TO DO SO  
10 MAY RESULT IN THE IMPOSITION of SANCTIONS which may include  
11 monetary sanctions, orders precluding proof, eliminations of claims  
12 or defenses, or such other sanctions as the court deems  
13 appropriate.

14 **TRIAL SETTING**

15 Trial is **SET** for November 4, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. Trial will  
16 be by jury. The parties represent in good faith that the trial  
17 will take approximately twelve (12) days.

18 **SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

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

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

25 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

26 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.

1 16(b), the Status (pretrial scheduling) Order **shall not be modified**  
2 **except by leave of court upon a showing of good cause.** Counsel are  
3 cautioned that changes to any of the scheduled dates will  
4 necessarily result in changes to all other dates. Thus, even where  
5 good cause has been shown, the court will not grant a request to  
6 change the discovery cutoff date without modifying the pretrial and  
7 trial dates.

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

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


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

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

24 IT IS SO ORDERED.

25 DATED: July 10, 2013.

26

  
LAWRENCE K. KARLTON  
SENIOR JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT