

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICHARD STAFFORD,

Plaintiff,

v.

DOLLAR TREE STORES, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:13-CV-1187 KJM CKD

STATUS (PRETRIAL SCHEDULING)

ORDER

An initial scheduling conference was held in this case on May 15, 2014. Brian Short appeared for plaintiff; Constance Norton appeared for defendant.

Having reviewed the parties' Joint Status Report filed on May 8, 2014, and discussed a schedule for the case with counsel at the hearing, the court makes the following orders:

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. All Doe defendants are dismissed.

II. ADDITIONAL PARTIES/AMENDMENTS/PLEADINGS

No further joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is permitted without leave of court, good cause having been shown. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b); *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604 (9th Cir. 1992).

1 III. JURISDICTION/VENUE

2 Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Jurisdiction and venue are not  
3 disputed.

4 IV. DISCOVERY

5 Initial disclosures as required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a) shall be  
6 completed within **fourteen (14) days**. All discovery shall be completed by **March 23, 2015**. In  
7 this context, “completed” means that all discovery shall have been conducted so that all  
8 depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to discovery shall have been resolved by  
9 appropriate order if necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has been obeyed.  
10 All motions to compel discovery must be noticed on the magistrate judge’s calendar in  
11 accordance with the local rules of this court. All requests to seal or redact are decided by Judge  
12 Mueller as discussed in more detail below. In addition, while the assigned magistrate judge  
13 handles discovery motions, the magistrate judge cannot change the schedule set in this order,  
14 even in connection with a discovery matter.

15 V. PHASED DISCOVERY

16 Defendant requests phased discovery, which plaintiff opposes. The court directed  
17 both parties to file briefing on the matter, with a hearing date of **August 7, 2014**, at 10:00 a.m.

18 VI. DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES

19 All counsel are to designate in writing, file with the court, and serve upon all other  
20 parties the name, address, and area of expertise of each expert that they propose to tender at trial  
21 not later than **April 13, 2015**. The designation shall be accompanied by a written report prepared  
22 and signed by the witness. The report shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B). By **May 4,**  
23 **2015**, any party who previously disclosed expert witnesses may submit a supplemental list of  
24 expert witnesses who will express an opinion on a subject covered by an expert designated by an  
25 adverse party, if the party supplementing an expert witness designation has not previously  
26 retained an expert to testify on that subject. The supplemental designation shall be accompanied  
27 by a written report, which shall also comply with the conditions stated above.

28 /////

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

8 For purposes of this scheduling order, an “expert” is any person who may be used  
9 at trial to present evidence under Rules 702, 703 and 705 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, which  
10 include both “percipient experts” (persons who, because of their expertise, have rendered expert  
11 opinions in the normal course of their work duties or observations pertinent to the issues in the  
12 case) and “retained experts” (persons specifically designated by a party to be a testifying expert  
13 for the purposes of litigation). A party shall identify whether a disclosed expert is percipient,  
14 retained, or both. It will be assumed that a party designating a retained expert has acquired the  
15 express permission of the witness to be so listed. Parties designating percipient experts must state  
16 in the designation who is responsible for arranging the deposition of such persons.

17 All experts designated are to be fully prepared at the time of designation to render  
18 an informed opinion, and give the bases for their opinion, so that they will be able to give full and  
19 complete testimony at any deposition taken by the opposing party. Experts will not be permitted  
20 to testify at trial as to any information gathered or evaluated, or opinion formed, after deposition  
21 taken subsequent to designation. All expert discovery shall be completed by **April 3, 2015**.

## 22 VII. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

23 All dispositive motions, except motions for continuances, temporary restraining  
24 orders or other emergency applications, shall be heard no later than April 24, 2015.<sup>1</sup> The parties  
25 may obtain available hearing dates by checking Judge Mueller’s page on the court’s website.

26 /////

27  
28 

---

<sup>1</sup> Note that this date may not correspond to a law and motion calendar date.

1 All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely pretrial motions. Local Rule  
2 230 governs the calendaring and procedures of civil motions; the following provisions also apply:

3 (a) The opposition and reply must be filed by 4:00 p.m. on the day due; and

4 (b) When the last day for filing an opposition brief falls on a legal holiday, the  
5 opposition brief shall be filed on the last court day immediately preceding the legal holiday.

6 Failure to comply with Local Rule 230(c), as modified by this order, may be deemed consent to  
7 the motion and the court may dispose of the motion summarily. *Brydges v. Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651,  
8 652-53 (9th Cir. 1994).

9 The court places a page limit of twenty (20) pages on all moving papers, twenty  
10 (20) pages on oppositions, and ten (10) pages for replies. All requests for page limit increases  
11 must be made through the courtroom deputy clerk at least fourteen (14) days prior to the filing of  
12 the motion.

13 Prior to filing a motion in a case in which the parties are represented by counsel,  
14 counsel shall engage in a pre-filing meet and confer to discuss thoroughly the substance of the  
15 contemplated motion and any potential resolution. Plaintiff's counsel should carefully evaluate  
16 the defendant's contentions as to deficiencies in the complaint and in many instances the party  
17 considering a motion should agree to any amendment that would cure a curable defect. Counsel  
18 should discuss the issues sufficiently so that if a motion of any kind is filed, including for  
19 summary judgment, the briefing is directed only to those substantive issues requiring resolution  
20 by the court. Counsel should resolve minor procedural or other non-substantive matters during  
21 the meet and confer. **A notice of motion shall contain a certification by counsel filing the**  
22 **motion that meet and confer efforts have been exhausted, with a brief summary of meet and**  
23 **confer efforts.**

24 The parties are reminded that a motion *in limine* is a pretrial procedural device  
25 designed to address the admissibility of evidence. The court looks with disfavor upon  
26 dispositional motions presented at the Final Pretrial Conference or at trial in the guise of motions  
27 *in limine*. Although all motions *in limine* must be filed in conjunction with the joint pretrial

28 ////

1 statement, the court will hear only those motions it has identified to counsel before the hearing  
2 date.

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

6 VIII. SEALING

7 No document will be sealed, nor shall a redacted document be filed, without the  
8 prior approval of the court. If a document for which sealing or redaction is sought relates to the  
9 record on a motion to be decided by Judge Mueller, the request to seal or redact should be  
10 directed to her and not the assigned Magistrate Judge. All requests to seal or redact shall be  
11 governed by Local Rules 141 (sealing) and 140 (redaction); protective orders covering the  
12 discovery phase of litigation shall not govern the filing of sealed or redacted documents on the  
13 public docket. The court will only consider requests to seal or redact filed by the proponent of  
14 sealing or redaction. If a party plans to make a filing that includes material an opposing party has  
15 identified as confidential and potentially subject to sealing, the filing party shall provide the  
16 opposing party with sufficient notice in advance of filing to allow for the seeking of an order of  
17 sealing or redaction from the court.

18 IX. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

19 The Final Pretrial Conference is set for **July 16, 2015**, at 3:30 p.m. At least one of  
20 the attorneys who will conduct the trial for each of the parties shall attend the Final Pretrial  
21 Conference. If by reason of illness or other unavoidable circumstance a trial attorney is unable to  
22 attend, the attorney who attends in place of the trial attorney shall have equal familiarity with the  
23 case and equal authorization to make commitments on behalf of the client.

24 Counsel for all parties are to be fully prepared for trial at the time of the Final  
25 Pretrial Conference, with no matters remaining to be accomplished except production of  
26 witnesses for oral testimony. The parties shall confer and file a joint pretrial conference  
27 statement by **June 25, 2015**. The provisions of Local Rule 281 shall apply with respect to the

28 ////

1 matters to be included in the joint pretrial statement. In addition to those subjects listed in Local  
2 Rule 281(b), the parties are to provide the court with the following:

3 - A plain, concise statement that identifies every non-discovery motion previously  
4 tendered to the court and its resolution.

5 - A concise, joint list of undisputed core facts that are relevant to each claim.  
6 Disputed core facts should then be identified in the same manner. The parties are reminded not to  
7 identify every fact in dispute but only those disputed facts that are essential to the formulation of  
8 each claim. Each disputed fact and undisputed fact should be separately numbered or lettered.  
9 Where the parties are unable to agree on the core disputed facts, they should nevertheless list core  
10 disputed facts in the above manner.

11 - Concise lists of disputed evidentiary issues that will be the subject of a party's  
12 motion *in limine*.

13 - Each party's points of law, which concisely describe the legal basis or theory  
14 underlying their claims and defenses. Points of law should reflect issues derived from the core  
15 undisputed and disputed facts. Parties shall not include argument with any point of law; the  
16 parties may include concise arguments in their trial briefs.

17 - A joint statement of the case in plain concise language, which will be read to the  
18 jury during voir dire and at the beginning of the trial. The purpose of the joint statement is to  
19 inform the jury what the case is about.

20 - The parties' position on the number of jurors to be impaneled to try the case.

21 Discovery documents to be listed in the pretrial statement shall not include  
22 documents to be used only for impeachment and in rebuttal.

23 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Local Rule 281 they are required to  
24 attach to the Final Pretrial Conference Statement an exhibit listing witnesses and exhibits they  
25 propose to offer at trial. After the name of each witness, each party shall provide a brief  
26 statement of the nature of the testimony to be proffered. The parties may file a joint list or each  
27 party may file separate lists. These list(s) shall not be contained in the body of the Final Pretrial

28 /////

1 Conference Statement itself, but shall be attached as separate documents to be used as addenda to  
2 the Final Pretrial Order.

3 Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed numerically. Defendant's exhibits shall be listed  
4 alphabetically. The parties shall use the standard exhibit stickers provided by the court: pink for  
5 plaintiff and blue for defendant. In the event that the alphabet is exhausted, the exhibits shall be  
6 marked "AA-ZZ". However, if the amount of defendant exhibits exceeds "ZZ" exhibits shall be  
7 then listed as A-3, A-4, A-5 etc. All multi page exhibits shall be stapled or otherwise fastened  
8 together and each page within the exhibit shall be numbered. The list of exhibits shall not include  
9 excerpts of depositions to be used only for impeachment. In the event that plaintiff(s) and  
10 defendant(s) offer the same exhibit during trial, that exhibit shall be referred to by the designation  
11 the exhibit is first identified. The court cautions the parties to pay attention to this detail so that  
12 all concerned, including the jury, will not be confused by one exhibit being identified with both a  
13 number and a letter. The parties are encouraged to consult concerning exhibits and, to the extent  
14 possible, provide joint exhibits, which shall be designated as JX and listed numerically, e.g., JX-  
15 1, JX-2.

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

20 Counsel shall produce all trial exhibits to Casey Schultz, the Courtroom Deputy,  
21 no later than 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before trial.

22 Failure to comply with Local Rule 281, as modified by this order, may be grounds  
23 for sanctions.

24 The parties also are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of  
25 Civil Procedure it will be their duty at the Final Pretrial Conference to aid the court in: (a) the  
26 formulation and simplification of issues and the elimination of frivolous claims or defenses; (b)  
27 the settling of facts that should properly be admitted; and (c) the avoidance of unnecessary proof  
28 and cumulative evidence. Counsel must cooperatively prepare the joint Final Pretrial Conference

1 Statement and participate in good faith at the Final Pretrial Conference with these aims in mind.<sup>2</sup>  
2 A failure to do so may result in the imposition of sanctions which may include monetary  
3 sanctions, orders precluding proof, elimination of claims or defenses, or such other sanctions as  
4 the court deems appropriate.

5 Concurrently with the filing of the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement,  
6 counsel shall submit to chambers the word processable version of the Statement, in its entirety  
7 (including the witness and exhibit lists) to: [kjmorders@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:kjmorders@caed.uscourts.gov).

8 X. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

9 Plaintiff makes a jury trial demand, which Dollar Tree contends cannot be  
10 maintained now that the Second Amended Complaint states solely PAGA claims. The parties  
11 will address this matter in their joint pretrial conference statement.

12 XI. TRIAL SETTING

13 The trial is set for **August 24, 2015** at 9:00 a.m. The parties estimate a trial length  
14 of approximately seven (7) to ten (10) days. Trial briefs are due by **August 9, 2015**. The parties  
15 dispute whether the case may be tried to a jury and are directed to file an appropriate motion to be  
16 heard at or before the final pretrial scheduling conference on **July 16, 2015**.

17 XII. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

18 No settlement conference is currently scheduled. A settlement conference may be  
19 set at the time of the Final Pretrial Conference or at an earlier time at the parties' request. In the  
20 event that an earlier settlement conference date or referral to the Voluntary Dispute Resolution  
21 Program (VDRP) is requested, the parties shall file said request jointly, in writing. Because the  
22 case will be tried to a jury, all parties should be prepared to advise the court whether they will  
23 stipulate to the trial judge acting as settlement judge and waive disqualification by virtue thereof.

24 Counsel are instructed to have a principal with full settlement authority present at  
25 any Settlement Conference or to be fully authorized to settle the matter on any terms. Each judge

---

26 <sup>2</sup> "If the pretrial conference discloses that no material facts are in dispute and that the undisputed  
27 facts entitle one of the parties to judgment as a matter of law," the court may summarily dispose  
28 of the case or claims. *Portsmouth Square v. Shareholders Protective Comm.*, 770 F.2d 866, 868-  
69 (9th Cir. 1985).



1 has different requirements for the submission of settlement conference statements; the appropriate  
2 instructions will be sent to you after the settlement judge is assigned.

3 XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

4 A potentially related matter is pending in Solano County. The defendant is  
5 contemplating removal and, if the case is removed, requesting consolidation.

6 XIV. MODIFICATION OF STATUS (PRETRIAL SCHEDULING) ORDER

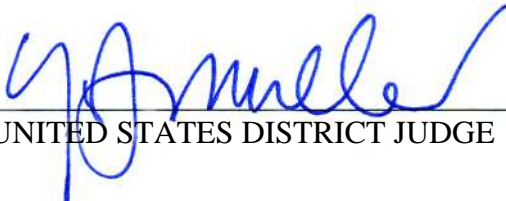
7 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil  
8 Procedure, the Status (Pretrial Scheduling) Order shall not be modified except by leave of court  
9 upon a showing of good cause. Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation alone does not  
10 constitute good cause. Except in extraordinary circumstances, unavailability of witnesses or  
11 counsel does not constitute good cause.

12 XV. OBJECTIONS TO STATUS (PRETRIAL SCHEDULING) ORDER

13 This Status Order will become final without further order of the court unless  
14 objections are filed within fourteen (14) *calendar* days of service of this Order.

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16 DATED: May 22, 2014.

17  
18   
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28