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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RENE BRIGNONE,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
BLUESTEM BRANDS, INC.,  
Defendant.

No. 2:16-cv-01703-TLN-KJN

PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

After reviewing the parties' Joint Status Report, the Court makes the following Pretrial Scheduling Order.

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. Jurisdiction and venue are not contested.

1 IV. DISCOVERY

2 All discovery shall be completed by **April 28, 2017**. In this  
3 context, "completed" means that all discovery shall have been  
4 conducted so that all depositions have been taken and any  
5 disputes relative to discovery shall have been resolved by  
6 appropriate order if necessary and, where discovery has been  
7 ordered, the order has been obeyed. All motions to compel  
8 discovery must be noticed on the magistrate judge's calendar in  
9 accordance with the local rules of this Court.

10 Any request to deviate from the Federal Rules of Civil  
11 Procedure should be made to the assigned Magistrate Judge.

12 V. DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES

13 All counsel are to designate in writing, file with the  
14 Court, and serve upon all other parties the name, address, and  
15 area of expertise of each expert that they propose to tender at  
16 trial not later than **June 29, 2017**.<sup>1</sup> The designation shall be  
17 accompanied by a written report prepared and signed by the  
18 witness. The report shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P.  
19 26(a)(2)(B).

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

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27 <sup>1</sup> The discovery of experts will include whether any motions based on Daubert  
28 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: (a)  
10 that the necessity for the witness could not have been reasonably  
11 anticipated at the time the list was proffered; (b) that the  
12 Court and opposing counsel were promptly notified upon discovery  
13 of the witness; and (c) that the witness was promptly made  
14 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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1 Parties designating percipient experts must state in the  
2 designation who is responsible for arranging the deposition of  
3 such persons.

4 All experts designated are to be fully prepared at the time  
5 of designation to render an informed opinion, and give their  
6 bases for their opinion, so that they will be able to give full  
7 and complete testimony at any deposition taken by the opposing  
8 party. Experts will not be permitted to testify at the trial as  
9 to any information gathered or evaluated, or opinion formed,  
10 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.

14 VI. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

15 All dispositive motions, except motions for continuances,  
16 temporary restraining orders or other emergency applications,  
17 shall be heard no later than **November 2, 2017**.

18 All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely  
19 pretrial motions. Local Rule 230 governs the calendaring and  
20 procedures of civil motions with the following additions:

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

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

27 Failure to comply with Local Rule 230(c), as modified by  
28 this order, may be deemed consent to the motion and the court may

1 dispose of the motion summarily. Further, failure to timely  
2 oppose a summary judgment motion<sup>2</sup> may result in the granting of  
3 that motion if the movant shifts the burden to the nonmovant to  
4 demonstrate that a genuine issue of material fact remains for  
5 trial.

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

13 For the Court's convenience, citations to Supreme Court  
14 cases should include parallel citations to the Supreme Court  
15 Reporter.

16 The parties are reminded that a motion in limine is a  
17 pretrial procedural device designed to address the admissibility  
18 of evidence. The Court will look with disfavor upon  
19 dispositional motions presented in the guise of motions in  
20 limine.

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

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

1 VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

2 The Final Pretrial Conference is set for **February 8, 2018,**  
3 at **2:00 p.m.** At least one of the attorneys who will conduct the  
4 trial for each of the parties shall attend the Final Pretrial  
5 Conference. If by reason of illness or other unavoidable  
6 circumstance a trial attorney is unable to attend, the attorney  
7 who attends in place of the trial attorney shall have equal  
8 familiarity with the case and equal authorization to make  
9 commitments on behalf of the client.

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

14 The parties shall file, not later than **February 1, 2018,** a  
15 Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement. The provisions of  
16 Local Rules 281 shall apply with respect to the matters to be  
17 included in the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement. In  
18 addition to those subjects listed in Local Rule 281(b), the  
19 parties are to provide the Court with a plain, concise statement  
20 that identifies every non-discovery motion tendered to the Court  
21 and its resolution. Failure to comply with Local Rule 281, as  
22 modified by this Pretrial Scheduling Order, may be grounds for  
23 sanctions.

24 At the time of filing the Joint Final Pretrial Conference  
25 Statement, counsel shall also electronically mail to the Court in  
26 digital format compatible with Microsoft Word, the Joint Final  
27 Pretrial Conference Statement in its entirety including the

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1 witness and exhibit lists. **These documents shall be sent to:**  
2 **tlorders@caed.uscourts.gov.**

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

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

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

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

25 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Local Rule 281  
26 they are required to list in the Joint Final Pretrial Conference  
27 Statement all witnesses and exhibits they propose to offer at  
28 trial. After the name of each witness, each party shall provide

1 a brief statement of the nature of the testimony to be proffered.  
2 The parties may file a joint list or each party may file separate  
3 lists. These list(s) shall not be contained in the body of the  
4 Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement itself, but shall be  
5 attached as separate documents to be used as addenda to the Final  
6 Pretrial Order.

7 Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed numerically.  
8 Defendant's exhibits shall be listed alphabetically. The parties  
9 shall use the standard exhibit stickers provided by the Court  
10 Clerk's Office: pink for plaintiff and blue for defendant. In  
11 the event that the alphabet is exhausted, the exhibits shall be  
12 marked "AA-ZZ" and "AAA-ZZZ" etc. After three letters, note the  
13 number of letters in parenthesis (i.e., "AAA(4)") to reduce  
14 confusion at trial. All multi-page exhibits shall be stapled or  
15 otherwise fastened together and each page within the exhibit  
16 shall be numbered. All photographs shall be marked individually.  
17 The list of exhibits shall not include excerpts of depositions,  
18 which may be used to impeach witnesses. In the event that  
19 Plaintiff and Defendant offer the same exhibit during trial, that  
20 exhibit shall be referred to by the designation the exhibit is  
21 first identified. The Court cautions the parties to pay  
22 attention to this detail so that all concerned, including the  
23 jury, will not be confused by one exhibit being identified with  
24 both a number and a letter.

25 The Final Pretrial Order will contain a stringent standard  
26 for the offering at trial of witnesses and exhibits not listed in  
27 the Final Pretrial Order, and the parties are cautioned that the  
28 standard will be strictly applied. On the other hand, the



1 listing of exhibits or witnesses that a party does not intend to  
2 offer will be viewed as an abuse of the court's processes.

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

16 VIII. TRIAL BRIEFS

17 The parties shall file trial briefs not later than fourteen  
18 (14) days before trial. Counsel are directed to Local Rule 285  
19 regarding the content of trial briefs.

20 IX. EVIDENTIARY AND/OR PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

21 It is the Court's practice to hear motions in limine on the  
22 first day of trial. However, depending on the number and nature  
23 of the parties' motions, the need to special set a hearing date  
24 to hear such motions shall be addressed at the Final Pretrial  
25 Conference.

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1 X. TRIAL SETTING

2 The trial is set for **April 9, 2018**, at **9:00 a.m.** Trial will  
3 be by jury. The panel will consist of eight (8) jurors. The  
4 parties estimate a trial length of **three to four (3-4) 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. The  
28 request must state whether the parties waive disqualification,

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

7 XII. VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

8 Pursuant to Local Rule 271, parties may stipulate at any  
9 stage in the proceedings to refer the action, in whole or in  
10 part, to the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program.

11 XIII. MODIFICATION OF PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

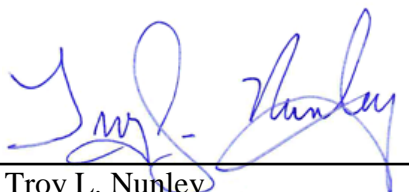
12 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the  
13 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Pretrial Scheduling Order  
14 shall not be modified except by leave of court upon a showing of  
15 **good cause**. Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation  
16 alone to modify the Pretrial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

20 XIV. OBJECTIONS TO PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

21 This Pretrial Scheduling Order will become final without  
22 further order of the Court unless objections are filed within  
23 fourteen (14) days of service of this Order.

24 IT IS SO ORDERED.

25 DATED: January 19, 2017

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Troy L. Nunley  
United States District Judge