

1 KING & SIEGEL LLP
 JULIAN BURNS KING, Bar No. 298617
 2 julian@kingsiegel.com
 ELLIOTT J. SIEGEL, Bar No.286798
 3 elliot@kingsiegel.com
 ROBERT J. KING, Bar No. 302545
 4 robert@kingsiegel.com
 724 S. Spring Street, Suite 201
 5 Los Angeles, CA 90014
 Telephone: 213.465.4802
 6 Facsimile: 213.465.4803
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 7 SARAH FRAZIER

8 Barbara A. Blackburn, Bar No. 253731
 bblackburn@littler.com
 9 Nathaniel H. Jenkins, Bar No. 312067
 njenkins@littler.com
 10 LITTLER MENDELSON P.C.
 500 Capitol Mall
 11 Suite 2000
 Sacramento, California 95814
 12 Telephone: 916.830.7200
 Fax No.: 916.561.0828

13 Attorneys for Defendant
 14 ULTA SALON, COSMETICS & FRAGRANCE, INC.

15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 16 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 17 SACRAMENTO DIVISION
 18

19 SARAH FRAZIER, an individual,
 20 Plaintiff,
 21 v.
 22 ULTA SALON, COSMETICS, &
 23 FRAGRANCE, INC., a Delaware corporation
 and DOES 1-10, inclusive,,
 24 Defendant.
 25

Case No. 2:20-cv-01608-TLM-DB

**Stipulation and Order to Further
 Modify the Scheduling Order**

Complaint filed: 08/11/2020

Amended Complaint filed: 09/10/2020

1 Plaintiff Sarah Frazier (“Plaintiff”) and Defendant Ulta Salon, Cosmetics &
2 Fragrance, Inc. (“Defendant”) (collectively, the “Parties”), by and through their respective counsel of
3 record, hereby agree and respectfully stipulate as follows:

4 **WHEREAS**, Plaintiff filed her Complaint on August 11, 2020, but did not serve
5 Defendant with this Complaint. Instead, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint on September 10,
6 2020 (ECF No. 5), and served Defendant with the First Amended Complaint on September 15, 2020,
7 and Defendant answered on October 20, 2020;

8 **WHEREAS**, on October 29, 2020, the Parties met and conferred regarding Plaintiff’s
9 contention that Defendant’s Answer was deficient, and in turn, Defendant agreed to file an Amended
10 Answer, and did so on November 20, 2020;

11 **WHEREAS**, on August 12, 2020, this Court issued its Initial Scheduling Order, which
12 requires the Parties to complete discovery no later than 240 days after the last day that a defendant
13 may answer the complaint (which here was October 20, 2020). Accordingly, the current discovery cut
14 off is June 17, 2021 (making the deadline for either party to serve any further discovery requests May
15 18, 2021).

16 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure (“FRCP”) 26(f), the Parties
17 exchanged initial disclosure statements and documents on December 14, 2020. Thereafter, over the
18 next five months, the Parties propounded and responded to written discovery requests, and met and
19 conferred to resolve alleged deficiencies in the discovery responses, including serving amended
20 discovery responses, as well as engaging in efforts to streamline Defendant’s search for Electronically
21 Stored Information (“ESI”) pursuant to Plaintiff’s discovery request.

22 **WHEREAS**, on May 21, 2021, this Court issued its signed Order accepting Plaintiff’s
23 and Defendant’s Joint Stipulation to Modify the Initial Scheduling Order (the “First Joint
24 Stipulation”). Pursuant to the First Joint Stipulation, the discovery cut off was extended to December
25 14, 2021.

26 **WHEREAS**, after obtaining the initial discovery extension, the Parties engaged in
27 written discovery efforts and took depositions of available witnesses, but have yet to complete
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1 depositions. The Parties have attempted to set depositions, but have encountered issues locating
2 pertinent witnesses (namely, former employees of Defendant, including two of Plaintiff's former
3 managers) and have had issues with witness availability. Specifically, both Parties wish to take the
4 deposition of Tonja Springer, Plaintiff's former direct manager, and have diligently attempted to serve
5 Ms. Springer with a deposition subpoena, to which Ms. Springer appears to be actively avoiding
6 service of same. Additionally, Defendant took the first part of Plaintiff's deposition in July 2021, but
7 due to scheduling conflicts, have not been able to complete Plaintiff's deposition. Accordingly, the
8 Parties will not be able to complete these depositions and/or enforce the deposition subpoena for Ms.
9 Springer prior to the previous discovery cut off on December 14, 2021, due to witness unavailability.
10 Accordingly, on December 15, 2021, this Court issued its signed Order accepting Plaintiff's and
11 Defendant's Second Joint Stipulation to Modify the Initial Scheduling Order.

12 **WHEREAS**, Defendant attempted to serve four pertinent witnesses with deposition
13 subpoenas, all former employees of Defendant, including Plaintiff's former manager, Tonja Springer,
14 and other relevant managers, Chris Galway-Howard and Carolyn Manick, along with Plaintiff's
15 alleged harasser, Shalyce Beck, all of whom are pertinent and critical witnesses to Plaintiff's
16 allegations. Despite diligent efforts, Defendant was not able to effectuate service on any of these
17 individuals.

18 **WHEREAS**, on February 2, 2022, this Court issued its signed Order accepting
19 Plaintiff's and Defendant's Joint Stipulation to Modify the Initial Scheduling Order (the "Third Joint
20 Stipulation"). Pursuant to the Third Joint Stipulation, the discovery cut off was extended to May 16,
21 2021.

22 **WHEREAS**, several key deposition remain unscheduled due to service difficulties and
23 the parties agree to a brief thirty (30) day extension of the discovery cut-off in order to complete
24 discovery.

25 **WHEREAS**, the Parties still intend to pursue early mediation of this matter in hopes
26 to reach a reasonable, global resolution of the lawsuit and to prevent any further need for further
27 written discovery, and trial preparation. However, the Parties have further agreed that in order to have
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1 a productive mediation, the depositions of the individuals listed above need to be taken. As described
2 above, due to witness unavailability and/or inability to effectuate service of deposition subpoenas
3 pursuant to FRCP Rule 45, the Parties have not completed these depositions.

4 **WHEREAS**, good cause exists to modify the Court’s scheduling Order as follows:

5 The district court is given broad discretion in supervising the pretrial phase of
6 litigation...” *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604, 607 (9th Cir. 1992) (citation and
7 internal quotation marks omitted). “A schedule may be modified only for good cause and with the
8 judge’s consent.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4); see e.g. *Spiller v. Ella Smithers Geriatric Ctr.*, 919 F.2d
9 339, 343 (5th Cir. 1990) (court impliedly granted motion to modify scheduling order by allowing
10 summary judgment motion after pretrial motion cut-off date).

11 To establish “good cause,” parties seeking modification of a scheduling order must
12 generally show that, even with the exercise of due diligence, they cannot meet the order’s timetable.
13 *Johnson, supra*, 975 F.2d at 609; see e.g., *Hood v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 567 F.Supp.2d 1221,
14 1224 (E.D. Cal. 2008) (granting request for modification that was promptly made when it became
15 apparent that compliance with the scheduling order was not possible). In determining “good cause,”
16 courts also consider the importance of the requested modification, the potential prejudice in allowing
17 the modification, and, conversely, whether denial of the requested modification would result in
18 prejudice. *Southwestern Bell Tel. Co. v. City of El Paso*, 346 F.3d 541, 546 (5th Cir. 2003) (involving
19 amendment of pleadings).

20 Here, good cause exists for an extension of the discovery cut off given the Parties’
21 inability to complete necessary discovery. This matter was initially filed on August 11, 2020; however
22 Plaintiff did not immediately serve Defendant. By the time Plaintiff served Defendant with her First
23 Amended Complaint, and Defendant filed an Amended Answer and the Parties exchanged their Rule
24 26(f) disclosures, less than six months remained within the then-existing Scheduling Order’s timetable
25 to complete all necessary discovery. Even then, the Parties diligently engaged in written discovery
26 efforts, including a request that Defendant conduct a search of voluminous ESI, which took several
27 months to complete. Once the Parties obtained an extension of the initial discovery deadline, they
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1 continued to engage in written discovery efforts and they took depositions of available witnesses.
2 However, the unavailability of pertinent witnesses (including Plaintiff's former manager and alleged
3 harasser) has prevented the parties from completing discovery. In addition, the Parties have agreed to
4 submit to early mediation and hope to reach a global resolution of this matter, but will need additional
5 time in order to complete limited depositions prior to a mediation. If mediation is unsuccessful, the
6 Parties will need additional time to conduct further discovery and prepare for trial.

7 **THEREFORE, upon good cause shown,** the Parties stipulate to continue the
8 discovery cut off (and related deadlines) out by a minimum of 45 days (which would be June 30, 2022
9 for the discovery cutoff).

10 Dated: May 9, 2022

KING & SIEGEL, LLP

11
12 /s/Robert J. King
13 JULIAN BURNS KING
14 ELLIOT J. SIEGEL
15 ROBERT J. KING
16 Attorney for Plaintiff
17 SARAH FRAZIER

18 Dated: May 9, 2022

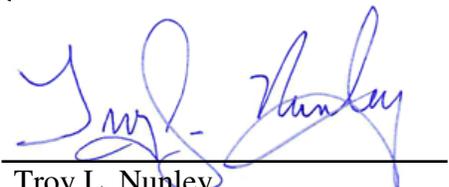
LITTLER MENDELSON P.C.

19 /s/Nathaniel H. Jenkins
20 BARBARA A. BLACKBURN
21 NATHANIEL H. JENKINS
22 Attorneys for Defendant
23 ULTA SALON, COSMETICS & FRAGRANCE,
24 INC.

25 **ORDER**

26 **PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

27 Dated: May 10, 2022

28 
Troy L. Nunley
United States District Judge