

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, a
District of Columbia non-profit corporation,
SCARLETT MILES, MARVELENA
QUESADA, ARLENE DOHERTY, ALICE
MARJORIE DONOVAN, BILLIE JEAN
KEITH, GEORGE P. SMITH, MARY ANN
ALEXANDER, and LAURA M. RUSSELL
and on behalf of themselves and all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MICHAEL ASTRUE, Commissioner of the
Social Security Administration, in her
official capacity, and SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION,

Defendants.

No. C 05-04696 WHA

**ORDER REGARDING FORMAT
OF PROPOSED FINDINGS OF
FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF
LAW AFTER BENCH TRIAL**

By **NOON ON SEPTEMBER 29**, both sides shall e-file proposed findings of fact, each identified by number. Each proposed finding should be concise and limited to one or two or (at most) three lines of text (exclusive of any block quotes from trial exhibits) followed by exact trial record cites fully supporting the proposed finding. The proposals should be at a level of specificity/generality so as to fit within the page limit set forth below. As a rule of thumb, less controverted subjects may be captured in more generalized proposed findings; more controversial subjects, however, usually require greater specificity and more proposed findings.

1 Avoid argumentation and stick to the facts. Block quotes and record cites may be single-spaced
2 (and indented) but otherwise the proposals should be double-spaced. Example:

3 1. When defendant went through the intersection of
4 Hayes and Gough, the light was red in his direction.

5 Jones at RT 97:1–3
6 Young at RT 15:11–12

7 The same submission should also set forth each proposed conclusion of law. Each
8 proposed conclusion of law must briefly identify the proposed findings of fact supporting the
9 conclusion *and* the legal authority therefor (quoting the key language of said authority). The
10 overall length of the submission must be 20 pages or less.

11 By **NOON ON OCTOBER 2**, the opposing side must e-file and serve a response. *The*
12 *response must state, separately as to each proposed finding, whether the responding party*
13 *agrees with the proposed finding and if not in full agreement, then the full extent to which,*
14 *considering the duty of good faith and candor, the responding party admits the proposed*
15 *finding.* To the extent that the responding side objects in any respect to the proposed finding, it
16 must state (i) the extent to which the opposition is based on a failure of the record cites to
17 support the proposal (explaining why they do not support it) versus (ii) the extent to which they
18 objection is based on contrary evidence (citing the contrary evidence) versus lack of credibility
19 (citing relevant evidence). Example:

20 1. Agree that the light was red but the light had just
21 changed a split second before.

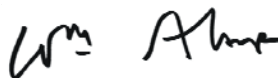
22 Mack RT 42:17–18

23 The submission shall similarly state the extent to which the responding party agrees with
24 each conclusion of law proposed by the other side. If there is any disagreement, the responding
25 side must state (i) the extent to which the disagreement is based on a failure of the supporting
26 findings, (ii) the extent to which the disagreement is based on a failure of the cited authorities to
27 support the conclusion, and (iii) the extent to which contrary authorities contradict the legal
28 basis for the proposed conclusion.

1 The responding submission should reproduce each original finding or conclusion and
2 then, immediately after each, supply the responsive information. It may not exceed twice
3 overall number of pages used by the submission to which it responds.

4
5 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

6 Dated: September 22, 2009.



WILLIAM ALSUP
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE