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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**VAUGHN R WALKER**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT CHIEF JUDGE**

**STANDING ORDERS**

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**ALL CASES**

**1.0 Conformity to Rules.** Parties are expected to consult and comply with all provisions of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local Rules, and these Standing Orders.

**1.1 Court Calendar:**  
Criminal law and motion calendar is conducted on Tuesdays at 10:30 am.  
Criminal pretrial conferences are conducted on Tuesdays at 10:30 am.  
Civil law and motion calendar is conducted on Thursdays at 2:00 pm.  
Civil case management and pretrial conferences are conducted on Tuesdays at 9:00 am.

**1.2 Removed Cases.** If the case was removed from a state court, and the applicable state law has not required the parties to make an express demand for a jury trial at the time of removal, any party claiming right to a jury trial must make the request therefor within ten days after service of the notice of removal. FRCP 81(c).

**1.3 Motions.** Prior to noticing a motion, parties must check the scheduling information concerning available hearing dates and times. This information is available by calling (415) 522-2039 or from the court’s website at [www.cand.uscourts.gov](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov). Motions shall be noticed in accordance with the court’s calendar listed above. Civil motions practice, including the filing of a motion, opposition and reply, shall be governed by Civil Local Rule 7. Criminal motions practice shall be governed by Criminal Local Rule 47. Memoranda filed in support of or opposition to a motion must contain a table of authorities. If unpublished opinions are cited in a memorandum, the case citation must include both the Westlaw and Lexis citation. All declarations or other papers containing more than one exhibit must be tabbed and labeled.

United States District Court

For the Northern District of California

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**1.4 Chambers Copy.** Exactly one chambers copy of any document filed with the court, whether by electronic or manual filing, must be mailed or otherwise delivered to the court so as to be received no later than two (2) days after the document is filed. Each such copy shall be clearly marked “CHAMBERS COPY” on the first page. If hand-delivered, chambers copies shall be delivered to the Clerk’s Office, not directly to chambers.

**1.5 Discovery and Discovery Motions.** The court will not entertain motions under FRCP 26-37 without prior leave of court. Following the conference required by FRCP 37(a)(1)(A), a party may seek leave by (1) a telephone conference with the court and all parties arranged through the courtroom deputy; or (2) a letter not exceeding two pages, with copies served on all parties, alerting the court to the dispute and suggesting a means for its prompt resolution. Such a letter need not contain argument on the dispute; the court will contact the parties to resolve the dispute. The court prefers that discovery-related telephone conferences be reported, but will proceed without a court reporter with the parties’ consent.

**PRO SE CASES**

For cases in which any party is not represented by a lawyer, the court further orders as follows:

**2.0 Pro Se Handbook/Service of Process.** A litigant bringing or defending a lawsuit without a lawyer (“proceeding pro se”) must obtain from the Clerk’s Office, as soon as possible after the case is filed, the Handbook For Litigants Without A Lawyer published by the court. Pro se plaintiffs are responsible for obtaining a summons from the clerk and for serving the complaint on all defendants in a timely fashion in accordance with Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Instructions for doing so are set forth in Chapter 5 of the Handbook. Failure to comply with all parts of Rule 4 will result in dismissal of the case.

**2.1 Service of Standing Orders.** If a defendant is sued by a plaintiff proceeding pro se, defendant must serve copies of these standing orders at once upon plaintiff in accordance with the provisions of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 4 and 5, and must file with the Clerk’s Office a certificate reflecting such service.

**2.2 Automatic Assignment To A Magistrate Judge.** Each case in which one of the parties is proceeding pro se shall be assigned automatically to a magistrate judge for the purpose of: (1) conducting a case management conference and setting a schedule, pursuant to FRCP 16, for pretrial proceedings, and (2) hearing and determining any pretrial matter not expressly precluded from being heard and determined by a magistrate judge under 28 USC section 636(b)(1)(A); any matter so precluded shall be submitted to the assigned magistrate judge for a report and recommendation, except those matters that are “case dispositive” within the meaning of this court’s General Order 42(1).

**PATENT CASES**

For any action alleging infringement of a patent, the court further orders as follows:

**3.0 Joint Claim Construction Statement.** The initial joint claim construction statement required by Patent Local Rule 4-3 shall set forth the disputed terms, phrases and clauses. All other terms will be presumed undisputed. For any term in dispute, the parties must agree on the identity of the term in dispute. With regard to disputed terms, phrases and clauses, the joint statement shall list each disputed term, phrase or clause (listed by claim, one to a page), each party’s proposed construction, and support for each party’s proposed construction side by side. A sample joint claim construction chart follows. Parties shall attach to the joint claim construction statement copies of all patents in dispute. Parties shall also make a complete prosecution history for each patent available to the court upon request.

<i>Claim language (disputed terms in <b>bold</b>)</i>	<i>Plaintiff’s proposed construction and supporting evidence</i>	<i>Defendant’s proposed construction and supporting evidence</i>
1. A method for counting <b>ducks</b> , comprising the steps of:  [or]  <b>ducks</b>  found in claim numbers:  ‘234 patent: y, z  ‘567 patent: a, b	<u>PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION:</u> a bird that quacks.  <u>DICTIONARY/TREATISE DEFINITIONS:</u> <u>Webster’s Dictionary:</u> “Duck: a bird that quacks;” <u>Sidley Field Guide To Birds:</u> “bird call: a low-pitched quack.”  <u>INTRINSIC EVIDENCE:</u> ‘234 patent col __: __ (“distinctive honking”); prosecution history at ____ (“this patent is distinguished from the prior art in that the quacking of the bird is featured”).  <u>EXTRINSIC EVIDENCE:</u> McDuck Depo at __: __ (“I’d say the quacking makes it a duck.”); ‘234 patent at col __: __; Daisy Decl at _____.	<u>PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION:</u> a bird that swims.  <u>DICTIONARY/TREATISE DEFINITIONS:</u> <u>Random House Dictionary :</u> “an aquatic bird”; <u>Spokes Field Guide to Birds</u> (“ducks may be observed swimming in bodies of water”).  <u>INTRINSIC EVIDENCE:</u> ‘567 patent col __: __ (“Ducks may be found on or near bodies of water.”); Prosecution History at __ (“Waterfowl are particularly amenable to being counted by this method.”)  <u>EXTRINSIC EVIDENCE:</u> G Marx Depo at __: __ (“Like a duck to water.”); ‘567 patent at col __: __; Daffy Decl at _____.

**3.1 Claim construction briefs.** Claim construction briefs shall address each disputed term, phrase or clause following the order of the joint statement. The opening and opposition briefs shall not exceed 25 pages and the reply brief shall not exceed 15 pages. If it becomes necessary for a party to propose a construction in its brief different from that found in the joint claim construction statement, that party must clearly set for the new construction and explain the basis for the change. At the time of filing the reply briefs, the parties shall file an amended, final joint claim construction statement, including only the remaining disputed terms, phrases and clauses.

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**3.2 Claim construction hearings.** The court does not receive live testimony or conduct tutorials in connection with a claim construction hearing.

**3.3 Chambers Copies.** Any party intending to use visual aids (e.g., slides) at a hearing shall submit two (2) printed copies of such visual aids, to be received by chambers not later than one week in advance of the hearing. The court’s general standing order with respect to chambers copies otherwise applies in patent cases.

**ADA CASES**

For any action seeking accommodation or other relief, including attorney fees, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC §§ 12181-89, the court further orders as follows:

**4.0 Service.** The plaintiff shall, pursuant to FRCP 4(m), promptly serve any unserved defendant;

**4.1 Stay of Proceedings.** Discovery, except for initial disclosures required by FRCP 26(a), and all other proceedings are until further order STAYED;

**4.2 Plaintiff’s Initial Demand.** Each plaintiff shall forthwith identify and serve upon each defendant a list of the architectural barriers sought to be removed and/or access to be provided, and if restrooms are at issue, a conceptual plan for remediation, accompanied by a statement of attorney fees incurred to date (42 USC § 12205; Hensley v Eckerhart, 461 US 424, 429-30, 433-37 (1983));

**4.3 Defendant’s Response.** Each defendant shall, before the initial case management conference, serve a response to the demand for the removal of barriers, (i) agreeing or disagreeing that such barriers exist, (ii) indicating whether any existing barrier has been removed and (iii) if a defendant believes that removal of an existing barrier is not readily achievable, specifying the factual basis for this belief;

**4.4 Joint Case Management Statement.** The joint case management statement shall contain, in addition to the information called for by FRCP 26(f), the information set forth in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 hereinabove;

**4.5 Consultation With Experts.** The parties are urged to consult with experts as necessary meaningfully to discuss removal of architectural barriers prior to the case management conference and/or any ADR session.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**




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VAUGHN R WALKER  
United States District Chief Judge