

EXHIBIT 31

LEXSEE



Analysis

As of: Sep 07, 2010

**ARTHUR G. MAIONCHI, et al., Plaintiffs, v. UNION PACIFIC CORPORATION,
Defendant.**

Case No.: C 03-0647 JF PVT

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA, SAN JOSE DIVISION**

2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 53169

July 9, 2007, Decided

July 9, 2007, Filed

PRIOR HISTORY: [Maionchi v. Union Pac. Corp., 156 Fed. Appx. 27, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS 25413 \(9th Cir. Cal., 2005\)](#)

CORE TERMS: disclosure, rebuttal, substantially justified, disclosing, harmless, substantial justification, recommendation, discovery, disclose, deadline, depose, attorneys fees, reasonableness, timing, opine, rebut

COUNSEL: [*1] For Arthur G. Maionchi, Edward A. Maionchi, Thomas S. Dinette, Charles J. Kraft, Plaintiffs: David D. Cooke, LEAD ATTORNEY, Cathy Ann Hongola, Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, San Francisco, CA; Stuart I. Block, LEAD ATTORNEY, Cox Castle & Nicholson LLP, San Francisco, CA; Melanie Louise Tang, Briscoe Ivester & Bazel LLP, San Francisco, CA.

For Safety-Kleen Services, Inc., Defendant: Hilton S. Williams, LEAD ATTORNEY, Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker, LLP, San Francisco, CA; Grace A. Carter, Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, San Francisco, CA.

For Union Pacific Corp., Defendant: Marc A. Zeppetello, Esq., LEAD ATTORNEY, John F. Barg, Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLP, San Francisco, CA.

JUDGES: PATRICIA V. TRUMBULL, United States

Magistrate Judge.

OPINION BY: PATRICIA V. TRUMBULL

OPINION

ORDER RE PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO EXCLUDE EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY; AND RECOMMENDATION THAT DISTRICT JUDGE FOGEL EXCLUDE THE TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM GWIRE

On July 2, 2007, Plaintiffs filed a motion to exclude the testimony of experts Plaintiffs argue were not timely disclosed. ¹ Defendant opposed the motion. Having reviewed the papers submitted by the parties, the court finds it appropriate to issue this order without oral argument. [*2] Based on the moving and opposition papers filed,

1 The holding of this court is limited to the facts and the particular circumstances underlying the present motion.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiffs' motion is DENIED with regard to Gary Hokkanen. Under [Rule 37\(c\)\(1\)](#), "[a] party that without substantial justification

fails to disclose information required by [Rule 26\(a\)](#) or [26\(e\)\(1\)](#) ... is not, unless such failure is harmless, permitted to use as evidence at trial, at a hearing, or on motion any witness or information not so disclosed." District courts are permitted particularly wide latitude in imposing sanctions under [Rule 37\(c\)\(1\)](#). See *Yeti by Molly, Ltd. v. Deckers Outdoor Corp.*, 259 F.3d 1101, 1106 (9th Cir. 2001). Exclusion of Mr. Hokkanen is thus appropriate only if Defendant was *not* substantially justified in disclosing him after the deadline for expert disclosures set in the scheduling order, *and* Plaintiffs were harmed by the delay. In the present case, Plaintiffs do not dispute that Mr. Hokkanen is a rebuttal expert. The fact that Defendant and its expert were able to see Plaintiffs' expert's report before providing Mr. Hokkanen's report did not constitute harm because that is [*3] the usual course for rebuttal experts. As expert discovery is still open, Plaintiffs may still depose Mr. Hokkanen. Under all the circumstances of this case, Defendants' delay in disclosing this expert and his report has not caused harm to Plaintiffs that would warrant exclusion of this expert's testimony.²

2 Because the court finds Defendant's delay in disclosing Mr. Hokkanen and his report was harmless, the court does not address the issue of substantial justification. While there is a good argument for finding the timing of the disclosure of Mr. Hokkanen to be substantially justified, the timing of the disclosure of his report is questionable.

IT IS RECOMMENDED, however, that District Judge Fogel exclude from any motion or trial the testimony and report of William Gwire. Mr. Gwire, who opines about the reasonableness of certain attorneys fees included in Plaintiffs' damage calculations, is not a rebuttal expert because the expert he purportedly "rebutts" is not an attorney and does not opine regarding the reasonableness of the subject attorneys fees. Defendant has not shown it was substantially justified in waiting 30 days after the expert disclosure deadline to disclose an expert [*4] who is not a rebuttal expert. Nor has Defendant shown that its unjustified delay was harmless. Under the current schedule, which has already been extended twice, there is insufficient time for Plaintiffs to retain an expert to rebut Mr. Gwire's opinion, for that expert to prepare a report, and for Defendant to depose that expert all within the remaining 7 business days before the close of expert discovery.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any party may serve and file specific written objections to this recommendation within ten (10) working days after being served with a copy. See [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)\(1\)\(C\)](#); [FED. R. CIV. P. 72\(b\)](#); [CIVIL L.R. 72-3](#). Failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the court's order.

Dated: 7/9/07

PATRICIA V. TRUMBULL

United States Magistrate Judge