

1 (5/06)

**PRETRIAL INSTRUCTIONS**  
**Honorable Susan Illston**

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3 **COUNSEL SHALL MEET AND CONFER IN GOOD FAITH IN ADVANCE OF COMPLYING**  
4 **WITH THE FOLLOWING PRETRIAL REQUIREMENTS.**

5 1. **PRETRIAL CONFERENCE and STATEMENT** - The parties shall comply in all  
6 respects with F.R.Civ.P 16. The statement is due **ten court days** prior to the Pretrial Conference. The  
7 Pretrial Statement must contain the following:

8 (a) **Pretrial Conference Statement:** The parties shall file a joint pretrial conference statement  
9 containing the following information:

10 (1) **The Action**

11 (A) **Substance of the Action.** A brief description of the substance of claims  
12 and defenses which remain to be decided.

13 (B) **Relief Prayed.** A detailed statement of all the relief claimed, particularly  
14 itemizing all elements of damages claimed as well as witnesses, documents or other evidentiary material  
15 to be presented concerning the amount of those damages.

16 (2) **The Factual Basis of the Action**

17 (A) **Undisputed Facts.** A plain and concise statement of all relevant facts not  
18 reasonably disputable, as well as which facts parties will stipulate for incorporation into the trial record  
19 without the necessity of supporting testimony or exhibits.

20 (B) **Disputed Factual Issues.** A plain and concise statement of all disputed  
21 factual issues which remain to be decided.

22 (C) **Agreed Statement.** A statement assessing whether all or part of the action  
23 may be presented upon an agreed statement of facts.

24 (D) **Stipulations.** A statement of stipulations requested or proposed for  
25 pretrial or trial purposes.

26 (3) **Disputed Legal Issues**

27 (A) **Points of Law.** Without extended legal argument, a concise statement of  
28 each disputed point of law concerning liability or relief, citing supporting statutes and decisions setting  
forth briefly the nature of each party's contentions concerning each disputed point of law, including  
procedural and evidentiary issues.

(B) **Proposed Conclusions of Law.** If the case is to be tried without a jury,  
unless otherwise ordered, parties should briefly indicate objections to proposed conclusions of law.

(4) **Trial Preparation**

(A) **Witnesses to be Called.** A list of all witnesses likely to be called at trial,  
other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, together with a brief statement following each name  
describing the substance of the testimony to be given.

1 **Trial Preparation-continuation**

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3 (B) **Exhibits, Schedules and Summaries.** A list of all documents and other  
4 items to be offered as exhibits at the trial, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, with a brief  
5 statement following each, describing its substance or purpose and the identity of the sponsoring witness.  
6 Unless otherwise ordered, parties will indicate their objections to the receipt in evidence of exhibits and  
7 materials lodged and that counsel have conferred respecting such objections.

8 (C) **Trial.** If the trial is to be to a jury, parties will indicate objections to use of  
9 materials served and filed (proposed voir dire questions, jury instructions and verdict forms) and that  
10 counsel have conferred respecting such objections.

11 (D) **Estimate of Trial Time.** An estimate of the number of court days needed  
12 for the presentation of each party's case, indicating possible reductions in time through proposed  
13 stipulations, agreed statements of facts, or expedited means of presenting testimony and exhibits.

14 (E) **Use of Discovery Responses.** Counsel shall cite possible presentation at  
15 trial of evidence, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, through use of excerpts from  
16 depositions, from interrogatory answers, or from responses to requests for admission. Counsel shall  
17 indicate any objections to use of these materials and that counsel has conferred respecting such  
18 objections.

19 (F) **Further Discovery or Motions.** A statement of all remaining discovery or  
20 motions, including motions in limine.

21 **(5) Trial Alternatives and Options**

22 (A) **Settlement Discussion.** A statement summarizing the status of settlement  
23 negotiations and indicating whether further negotiations are likely to be productive.

24 (B) **Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge.** A statement whether  
25 reference of all or part of the action to a master or magistrate judge is feasible, including whether the  
26 parties consent to a court or jury trial before a magistrate judge, with appeal directly to the Ninth Circuit.

27 (C) **Amendments, Dismissals.** A statement of requested or proposed  
28 amendments to pleadings or dismissals of parties, claims or defenses.

(D) **Bifurcation, Separate Trial of Issues.** A statement of whether bifurcation  
or a separate trial of specific issues is feasible and desired.

2. **WITNESSES**

a. **Jury Trials.** The Pretrial Conference Statement shall include the witness list  
required in part by 1(a)(4)(A) above. In addition, in the case of expert witnesses, the summary shall  
clearly state the expert's theories and conclusions and the basis therefore and shall be accompanied by  
a curriculum vitae; if the expert has prepared a report in preparation for the testimony, a copy thereof  
shall be furnished to opposing counsel. Witnesses not included on the list may be excluded from  
testifying.

b. **Non-Jury Trials.** In non-jury cases, each party shall serve and lodge with the  
Court a written narrative statement of the proposed direct testimony of each witness under that party's  
control in lieu of a summary. Each statement shall be marked as an exhibit and shall be in a form  
suitable to be received into evidence.

1           3.       **JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

2           a.       **Joint Set of Agreed Upon Instructions.** The parties shall jointly prepare a set  
3 of agreed upon jury instructions, and shall file an original and two copies of same **ten court days** prior  
4 to the Pretrial Conference. Counsel shall deliver to Chambers a copy of their proposed jury instructions,  
in the same order as their joint submission, on a 3-1/2" disk in **WordPerfect 10** format. The disk label  
shall include the case number and a description of the documents.

5           b.       **Separate Instructions.** Separate instructions may be submitted only as to those  
6 instructions upon which the parties cannot agree. Separate instructions shall note on their face the  
7 identity of the party submitting them. Prior to the required filing date, copies of these separate  
8 instructions shall be exchanged by the parties and the party or parties objecting to the instruction shall  
note the basis for the objection on the face of the instruction. An original and two copies of the separate  
instructions with objections shall be filed **ten court days** prior to the Pretrial Conference.

9           c.       **Substance and Format of Instructions.** The instructions shall cover all  
10 substantive issues and other points not covered by the Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions.  
Each requested instruction shall be typed in full on a separate page and citations to the authorities upon  
11 which the instruction is based shall be included. Instructions shall be brief, clear, written in plain  
English and free of argument. Pattern or form instructions shall be revised to address the particular facts  
and issues of this case.

12           d.       **Preliminary Statement and Instructions.** If the parties wish to have a  
13 preliminary statement read to the jury, and/or preliminary instructions given to the jury, they shall  
14 jointly prepare and submit to the Court, **five court days** prior to the pretrial conference, the text of the  
statement and instructions, clearly marked.

15           e.       **Voir Dire and Verdict Forms.** Each party shall serve and file proposed  
16 questions for jury voir dire and a proposed Form of Verdict not later than **two court days** prior to the  
Pretrial Conference.

17           4.       **FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

18           In **non-jury cases**, each party shall serve and lodge with the Court **ten court days** prior  
19 to the Pretrial Conference, proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on all material issues.  
Proposed Findings shall be brief, written in plain English and free of pejorative language, conclusions  
20 and argument. Parties shall deliver to Chambers copies of proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions  
of Law on a 3-1/2" disk in **WordPerfect 10** format. The disk label shall include the name of the  
parties, the case number and a description of the documents.

21           5.       **EXHIBITS**

22           a.       **Provide Copies of Exhibits to Other Parties.** Each party shall provide every  
23 other party with one set of all proposed exhibits, charts, schedules, summaries, diagrams and other  
24 similar documentary materials to be used in its case in chief at trial, together with a complete list of all  
such proposed exhibits. Voluminous exhibits shall be reduced by elimination of irrelevant portions or  
25 through the use of summaries. Each item shall be pre-marked with a trial exhibit sticker (not deposition  
exhibit label), defendant's exhibit numbers shall be sequenced to begin after plaintiff's exhibit numbers.  
If there are numerous exhibits, they should be provided in three-ring binders with marked tab separators.  
26 All exhibits which have not been provided as required are subject to exclusion.

27           b.       **Stipulations re Admissibility.** **Ten court days** prior to the Pretrial Conference,  
28 the parties shall make a good faith effort to stipulate to exhibits' admissibility. If stipulation is not  
possible, the parties shall make every effort to stipulate to authenticity and foundation absent a  
legitimate (not tactical) objection. Then the matter shall be presented at the pretrial conference.

1 **EXHIBITS-continuation**

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3 c. **Objections to Other Evidence**. In addition to the exhibit list, counsel  
4 shall confer with respect to any other evidentiary objections in advance of the Pretrial Conference. Each  
party shall file and serve a statement briefly identifying each item objected to, the grounds for the  
objection and the position of the offering party as stated at the conference.

5 d. **Provide Copies of Exhibits to Court**. Three sets of exhibits shall be provided  
6 to the Court on the **Friday prior to the trial date**. Each set shall be in binders, marked, tabbed and  
7 indexed and shall be **delivered/mailed directly to Chambers**. Parties are to comply with Local Rule  
16-10(b)(7).

8 e. **Disposition of Exhibits after Trial**. Upon the conclusion of the trial,  
9 each party shall retain its exhibits through the appellate process. It is each party's responsibility to make  
arrangements with the Clerk of Court to file the record on appeal.

10 6. MOTIONS IN-LIMINE

11 Any party wishing to have motions in limine heard prior to the commencement of trial  
12 must file and serve same no later than **ten court days** prior to the date set for the Pretrial Conference.  
13 Any party opposing such a motion in limine shall file and serve its opposition papers no later than **five**  
14 **court days** prior to the Pretrial Conference. No reply papers will be considered, and the motions will  
15 be heard at the Pretrial Conference or at such other time as the Court may direct. Nothing in this  
provision prevents a party from noticing its motions in limine regularly for hearing on or prior to the  
16 final date for hearing dispositive motions. **NO LEAVE TO FILE UNDERSEAL WILL BE**  
**GRANTED WITH RESPECT TO MOTIONS IN-LIMINE.**

17 7. OTHER PRETRIAL MATTERS

18 a. **Status/Discovery Conferences**. Any party desiring to confer with the Court may,  
19 upon notice to all other parties, arrange a conference through the Courtroom Deputy,  
Ms. Tracy Sutton (415-522-2028).

20 b. **Settlement Conferences**. Any party wishing to arrange a settlement conference  
21 before another judge or Magistrate Judge may do so by contacting the courtroom deputy.

22 c. **Daily Transcripts**. If transcripts will be requested during or immediately after  
23 trial, arrangements must be made with the court reporter at least **five court days** before trial commences.

24 8. MISCELLANEOUS

25 a. The Court takes a photograph of each witness prior to being sworn.

26 b. Please **DO NOT** call Chambers. If you need to contact the courtroom  
27 deputy, please call the number above and leave a message if the deputy is not available.

28 c. An **original and 1 copy** of any correspondence that will be faxed, filed or lodged  
with the court.

**United States District Court**  
For the Northern District of California

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