

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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

HALSEY MINOR, an individual,

Plaintiff,

No. C 08-05445 WHA

v.

Consolidated with:

CHRISTIE’S INC., a New York corporation,
and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,

No. C09-00471 WHA

Defendants.

CHRISTIE’S INC., a New York corporation,

Counterclaimant,

**CASE MANAGEMENT
ORDER AND ORDER
CONSOLIDATING CASES**

v.

HALSEY MINOR, an individual, and
ROES 1 through 20, inclusive,

Counter-defendants.

After a case management conference, the Court enters the following order pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“FRCP”) and Civil Local Rule 16-10:

1. These two civil actions are hereby **CONSOLIDATED** for all purposes. All filings should be made only in the No. C08-05445 WHA action and shall be deemed to be made as to both.
2. All initial disclosures under FRCP 26 must be completed by **MAY 15, 2009**, on pain of preclusion under FRCP 37(c).

- 1 3. Leave to add any new parties or pleading amendments must be sought by
2 **MAY 21, 2009.**
- 3 4. The private mediator must be selected by **MAY 29, 2009**, and the private mediation
4 must be completed by **AUGUST 31, 2009.**
- 5 5. The non-expert discovery cut-off date shall be **JANUARY 29, 2010.**
- 6 6. The last date for designation of expert testimony and disclosure of full expert reports
7 under FRCP 26(a)(2) as to any issue on which a party has the burden of proof
8 (“opening reports”) shall be **JANUARY 29, 2010.** Within **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS**
9 thereafter, all other parties must disclose any responsive expert testimony with full
10 expert reports responsive to opening reports (“opposition reports”). Within
11 **SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS** thereafter, the opening parties must disclose any reply reports
12 rebutting specific material in opposition reports. Reply reports must be limited to true
13 rebuttal and should be very brief. They should not add new material that should have
14 been placed in the opening report. Without a reply report disclosure, no reply/rebuttal
15 expert testimony will ordinarily be allowed. The cutoff for all expert discovery shall be
16 **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS** after the deadline for reply reports. In aid of preparing an
17 opposition or reply report, a responding party may depose the adverse expert
18 sufficiently before the deadline for the opposition or reply report so as to use the
19 testimony in preparing the response. Experts must make themselves readily available
20 for such depositions. Alternatively, the responding party can elect to depose the expert
21 later in the expert-discovery period. An expert, however, may be deposed only once
22 unless the expert is used for different opening and/or opposition reports, in which case
23 the expert may be deposed independently on the subject matter of each report. At least
24 **28 CALENDAR DAYS** before the due date for opening reports, each party shall serve a
25 list of issues on which it will offer any expert testimony in its case-in-chief (including
26 from non-retained experts). This is so that all parties will be timely able to obtain
27 counter-experts on the listed issues and to facilitate the timely completeness of all
28 expert reports. Failure to so disclose may result in preclusion.

- 1 7. As to damages studies, the cut-off date for *past damages* will be as of the expert report
2 (or such earlier date as the expert may select). In addition, the experts may try to
3 project *future damages* (*i.e.*, after the cut-off date) if the substantive standards for
4 future damages can be met. With timely leave of Court or by written stipulation, the
5 experts may update their reports (with supplemental reports) to a date closer to the time
6 of trial.
- 7 8. At trial, the direct testimony of experts will be limited to the matters disclosed in their
8 reports. Omitted material may not ordinarily be added on direct examination.
9 This means the reports must be complete and sufficiently detailed.
10 Illustrative animations, diagrams, charts and models may be used on direct examination
11 only if they were part of the expert's report, with the exception of simple drawings and
12 tabulations that plainly illustrate what is already in the report, which can be drawn by
13 the witness at trial or otherwise shown to the jury. If cross-examination fairly opens
14 the door, however, an expert may go beyond the written report on cross-examination
15 and/or redirect examination. By written stipulation, of course, all sides may relax these
16 requirements.
- 17 9. To head off a recurring problem, experts lacking percipient knowledge should avoid
18 vouching for the credibility of witnesses, *i.e.*, whose version of the facts in dispute is
19 correct. This means that they may not, for example, testify that based upon a review of
20 fact depositions and other material supplied by counsel, a police officer did (or did not)
21 violate standards. Rather, the expert should be asked for his or her opinion based —
22 explicitly — upon an assumed fact scenario. This will make clear that the witness is
23 not attempting to make credibility and fact findings and thereby to invade the province
24 of the jury. Of course, a qualified expert can testify to relevant customs, usages,
25 practices, recognized standards of conduct, and other specialized matters beyond the
26 ken of a lay jury. This subject is addressed further in the trial guidelines referenced in
27 paragraph 17 below.
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- 1 10. Counsel need not request a motion hearing date and may notice non-discovery motions
2 for any Thursday (excepting holidays) at 8:00 a.m. The Court sometimes rules on the
3 papers, issuing a written order and vacating the hearing. If a written request for oral
4 argument is filed before a ruling, stating that a lawyer of four or fewer years out of law
5 school will conduct the oral argument or at least the lion's share, then the Court will
6 hear oral argument, believing that young lawyers need more opportunities for
7 appearances than they usually receive.
- 8 11. The last date to file dispositive motions shall be **MARCH 4, 2010**. No dispositive
9 motions shall be heard more than 35 days *after* this deadline, *i.e.*, if any party waits
10 until the last day to file, then the parties must adhere to the 35-day track in order to
11 avoid pressure on the trial date.
- 12 12. The **FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE** shall be at **2:00 P.M.** on **APRIL 19, 2010**. For the
13 form of submissions for the final pretrial conference and trial, please see paragraph 17
14 below.
- 15 13. A **JURY TRIAL** shall begin on **MAY 10, 2010**, at **7:30 A.M.**, in Courtroom 9, 19th Floor,
16 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102. The trial schedule and
17 time limits shall be set at the final pretrial conference. Although almost all trials
18 proceed on the date scheduled, it may be necessary on occasion for a case to trail,
19 meaning the trial may commence a few days or even a few weeks after the date stated
20 above, due to calendar congestion and the need to give priority to criminal trials.
21 Counsel and the parties should plan accordingly, including advising witnesses.
- 22 14. Counsel may not stipulate around the foregoing dates without Court approval.
- 23 15. While the Court encourages the parties to engage in settlement discussions, please do
24 not ask for any extensions on the ground of settlement discussions or on the ground that
25 the parties experienced delays in scheduling settlement conferences, mediation or ENE.
26 The parties should proceed to prepare their cases for trial. No continuance (even if
27 stipulated) shall be granted on the ground of incomplete preparation without competent
28 and detailed declarations setting forth good cause.


- 1 16. To avoid any misunderstanding with respect to the final pretrial conference and trial,
2 the Court wishes to emphasize that all filings and appearances must be made — on pain
3 of dismissal, default or other sanction — unless and until a dismissal fully resolving the
4 case is received. It will not be enough to inform the clerk that a settlement in principle
5 has been reached or to lodge a partially executed settlement agreement or to lodge a
6 fully executed agreement (or dismissal) that resolves less than the entire case.
7 Where, however, a fully-executed settlement agreement clearly and fully disposing of
8 the entire case is lodged reasonably in advance of the pretrial conference or trial and
9 only a ministerial act remains, the Court will arrange a telephone conference to work
10 out an alternate procedure pending a formal dismissal.
- 11 17. If you have not already done so, please read and follow the “Supplemental Order to
12 Order Setting Initial Case Management Conference in Civil Cases Before Judge
13 William Alsup” and other orders issued by the Clerk’s office when this action was
14 commenced. Among other things, the supplemental order explains when submissions
15 are to go to the Clerk’s Office (the general rule) versus when submissions may go
16 directly to chambers (rarely). With respect to the final pretrial conference and trial,
17 please read and follow the “Guidelines For Trial and Final Pretrial Conference in Civil
18 Jury Cases Before The Honorable William Alsup.” All orders and guidelines
19 referenced in the paragraph are available on the district court’s website at
20 <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>. The website also includes other guidelines for
21 attorney’s fees motions and the necessary form of attorney time records for cases
22 before Judge Alsup. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may contact Deputy
23 Clerk Dawn K. Toland at (415) 522-2020 to learn how to pick up a hard copy.
- 24 18. All pretrial disclosures under FRCP 26(a)(3) and objections required by FRCP 26(a)(3)
25 must be made on the schedule established by said rule.
- 26 19. After the case is over, please fill out the appended “Suggestions Box” memo on an
27 anonymous basis and send to Judge William Alsup, United States District Court,
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450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102. Your constructive criticism will be most appreciated.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 23, 2009.



WILLIAM ALSUP
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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SUGGESTIONS BOX

Judge Alsup invites views of any counsel or party on how to improve the administration of justice in his courtroom. Please offer as much constructive criticism as you wish. (If there is any practice you particularly wish to stay in place, such comments would also be welcome.) Please do not identify yourself or your firm. Please comment on:

1. Case management —
2. Disclosure and discovery —
3. Motion practice —
4. Class actions and derivative actions —
5. Trials —
6. Fairness, bias, temperament, efficiency and demeanor —
7. Is there anything else about our district court you would like to improve?